

Three shot as SAS ambush IRA suspects

Armed men killed near bus bomb site

- Three IRA suspects were shot dead by soldiers yesterday after firing on a lorry driver in Omagh, Co Tyrone
- An investigation is under way after maps showing Army bases in Germany were dumped in a rubbish skip
- Witnesses said that the men, who were armed, were caught in an SAS ambush and 30 to 40 shots were fired
- Four mortar tubes and 25lb of Semtex explosive were discovered on a bus during a border check

By Paul Valley

Three suspected IRA terrorists were shot dead yesterday afternoon after they attacked a lorry near Omagh, Co Tyrone.

They came under fire from an SAS unit, apparently lying in wait after a tip-off, and died about eight miles from the spot where eight members of the 1st Battalion Light Infantry were killed 10 days ago.

First reports last night suggested that the SAS had mounted another of a series of operations to prevent IRA units from carrying out terrorist operations.

Next month a Gibraltar coroner's court will hear details of the controversial SAS operation there earlier this

year in which three IRA operatives died. Yesterday's Army action comes in the wake of calls for tougher action to curb an IRA offensive that began at the beginning of this month and has claimed a succession of servicemen's lives in Ulster, Britain and the Continent.

In the past few weeks there has been constant debate at Stormont Castle and in Whitehall about improving intelligence operations to forestall the IRA.

The operation yesterday was launched after the Army received a tip-off on IRA

Conor Cruise O'Brien 10

plans. The security forces are known to be offering up to £100,000 for information on terrorist operations and activities.

The three men died in a hail of bullets after they fired on the driver of a lorry parked on the Drumnakilly road between Omagh and Carrickmore.

According to initial reports, the three were caught in an ambush laid by the SAS late yesterday afternoon. Local residents said they were known to be IRA supporters.

Witnesses said the three, who were armed, were shot in a car when security men fired between 30 and 40 rounds at them. Police arrived quickly, they said, indicating that they may have been informed in advance of the incident.

The Royal Ulster Constabulary last night confirmed that three people had been killed. Two rifles are understood to have been captured from the men.

Earlier in the day, an Ulster Unionist politician said official maps of British Army bases in West Germany had been found abandoned in a rubbish skip in Northern Ireland.

The incident was a serious breach of security in the province, Mr Gregory Camp-

bell, a member of the Rev Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party and councillor on Derry City Council, said.

Mr Campbell said the maps, in German and in English, were officially categorized as "restricted" and showed garrison training areas in West Germany.

An Army spokesman said they were "not classified" but an investigation was under way to find how the maps came to be in the rubbish skip.

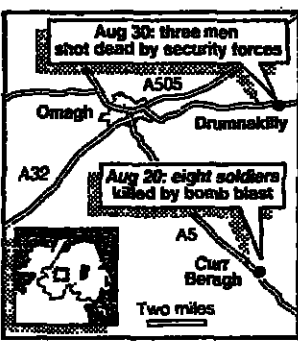
The news came as 25lb of Semtex explosive and four mortar tubes — of the type used in numerous serious incidents in the province in recent weeks — were discovered on a bus during a routine check at the border near Londonderry.

The Lough Swilly Company bus was stopped between Letterkenny in Co Donegal in the Republic and Londonderry. The explosives were found in a red duffel bag beneath one of the seats.

Police are working on the theory that it was placed there to be collected later by someone who was not a passenger.

Earlier yesterday, Mr Michael McAtamney, the Deputy Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, was reported to have called for a change in extradition procedures after the debate surrounding the handover of Robert Russell last weekend.

The present system tied up a disproportionate number of policemen in precautionary activities, he said.



Moscow's flying giant thunders into Britain



A huge Antonov 124 transport plane spearheading the Soviet Union's "invasion" of Farnborough, Hampshire, yesterday for the air show. Report, page 18

Tebbit 'was minded to refuse' Clowes licence

By Lawrence Lever

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, then Mr Norman Tebbit, was "minded to serve notice of his intention to refuse a licence to Barlow Clowes," according to an official DTI letter, of which *The Times* has seen a copy.

The letter says Barlow Clowes "had for some time carried on the business of dealing in securities without a licence contrary to section 1 of the Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act 1938, and quotes the Bank of England view that "the partnership's present *modus operandi* breaches the provisions of section 1 of the Banking Act 1979".

However, the Government decided to allow the application for a licence to proceed because it was concerned that if it refused the group might collapse, causing its investors to lose their savings with Barlow Clowes, which then amounted to £80 million.

According to the letter, the DTI was concerned "that the interests of investors would best be served by avoiding any action which might lead to a collapse." The licence was eventually granted in October

1985, when Mr Leon Brittan replaced Mr Tebbit as Secretary of State.

The Barlow Clowes Investors' Group welcomed the news as important backing for its campaign for government compensation for investors.

The DTI would not comment on the document last night and Mr Tebbit was unavailable.

The decision to grant Barlow Clowes a licence was taken in the face of warnings about Barlow Clowes from

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outside bodies as well as concern among civil servants within the Department and at the Bank of England.

Barlow Clowes was licensed to deal with the public in October 1985. But it collapsed in May this year.

The Times has seen a letter written by Mr Roger Louth, a DTI official, to Herbert Smith, the Barlow Clowes solicitor, on April 2, 1985.

Mr Louth says in the letter that Barlow Clowes had "for some time" carried on business without a licence and "was continuing to do so. The

Department cannot condone any such breach."

However, it has hitherto taken the view that the interests of investors would best be served by avoiding any action which might lead to a collapse," Mr Louth says.

"This attitude was adopted on the basis of assurances by the partnership (Barlow Clowes)."

At one point Mr Louth writes that the Secretary of State is minded to refuse the application by Barlow Clowes for a licence unless satisfactory assurances are given.

"Accordingly, I am writing to tell you that in the absence of satisfactory assurances, the Secretary of State is minded to serve notice of his intention to refuse the partnership's application for a licence."

Mr Louth says: "I understand that they are of the view that the partnership's present *modus operandi* breaches the provisions of section 1 of the Banking Act 1979 and have written telling the partnership to cease their activities or to modify them in such a way that they no longer constitute breaches of that legislation."

Toxic cargo vessel is banned from entering Britain

By Nicholas Wood and Sheila Guna

The West German freighter Karin B, carrying 2,000 tonnes of toxic waste, was condemned to resume its odyssey last night after the Government bowed to intense public pressure and banned it from entering Britain.

The decision, taken against a background of sharp criticism of ministers for allegedly dragging their feet over pollution laws, was conveyed to the Italian ambassador, Signor Boris Biancheri, by Mrs Virginia Bottomley, Under Secretary of State at the Department of the Environment.

Signor Biancheri was called in by Mrs Bottomley for a 25-minute meeting in which he was told in no uncertain terms that disposal of the ship's cargo was a matter for the Italian authorities.

Mrs Bottomley said after the meeting: "In its present form, we don't know what the waste is. Therefore, there is no way Britain could deal with it."

"We did say most forcefully that we regarded this as eminently an Italian problem and for them to deal with."

"It was for the Italians to

analyse the contents of this waste and to establish a port of call before it set sail.

"What really is the height of irresponsibility is to set it out onto the seas without having firmly established a location for it to reach," she said.

Signor Biancheri, who is to

Captain Richard Hototier told *The Times* yesterday that he understood the British refusal to accept his cargo. He said the cargo would never be permitted in Austria, his own country. Page 2

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meet Mrs Bottomley again after consulting his government, said she had explained to him Britain's rules and regulations governing hazardous "special wastes".

Whitehall sources said he had argued that the waste "had to go somewhere".

The Karin B has been at sea since last month when it picked up the waste.

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WIN £182,000

Portfolio — PLUS NEW — Accumulator

● There were no winners of yesterday's £4,000 daily prize, so the Portfolio Accumulator now stands at £182,000. Prices: page 23

INSIDE

Sir Helenus Milmo dies

Sir Helenus Milmo QC, former leading libel counsel, judge and the interrogator called in by MI5 to question Kim Philby at the height of the Burgess and Maclean scandal more than 30 years ago, died yesterday, aged 80, in a Sussex hospital. Obituary, page 12

Angola pullout

Angolan and Cuban officers were on hand to monitor what was described as South Africa's total military pullout from southern Angola yesterday, a day early. Page 6

Shares slide

Share prices continued their fall, with investors still gloomy about base rates. The FT-SE 100 index fell 15.9 points. Pages 19, 22

Test success

England's miserable sequence of 18 Test matches without a win ended yesterday when Sri Lanka were beaten by seven wickets at Lord's. Page 36

Degree courses

Degree course vacancies in Law, Business Administration, Architecture, Creative Arts, Education, Agriculture and Mass Communications are published today. Page 31

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★★★★★

Turks help 150,000 to flee Iraq

By Hazhir Teimourian

Turkey yesterday officially opened its border with Iraq to Kurdish civilians fleeing from heavy fighting between the Iraqi army and autonomy-seeking Kurdish guerrillas. Estimates of refugees wanting to seek asylum in Turkey rose to 150,000.

Parliamentarians who had visited the border near Cukura were reported to have said at least 10,000 of the refugees had entered Turkey. On Monday, the mayor of the town of Hakkari said that 16,000 refugees were already being cared for in the district.

Mr Turgut Ozal, the Prime Minister of Turkey, said in Ankara that the region faced "a serious human problem".

The Government would let women and children among the refugees enter the country. "We will also try not to split

Last-minute peace bids fail National 24-hour post strike today

By Roland Knud, Employment Affairs Correspondent

Britain's first national post strike in 17 years will start this morning when most of the 140,000 post workers are expected to back the Union of Communication Workers' call for a 24-hour stoppage over a bonus payment scheme.

Mr Alan Tiffin, the union's general secretary, last night ruled out a last-minute reprieve, firmly rejecting the Post Office's call for further

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talks unless it agreed to "withdraw its precondition of flexible pay". He said the strike committee would meet tomorrow to consider further action if necessary.

Mr Bill Cockburn, managing director of Royal Mail, said the union was "hell-bent on plunging the postal service into industrial action which would be

extremely damaging to millions of our customers."

The Post Office will hire temporary staff tomorrow to deal with delayed mail and they may have to sort more than a million letters.

Mr Cockburn said he believed any prolonged national action would be in breach of the workers' contracts. "If the union decides to embark on further selective or guerrilla action we would have to respond to it."

The dispute centres on the decision to pay new employees in the South-east and London, which has severe staff shortages, a special bonus of between £7.50 and £20 to help to retain post workers. More than 50 per cent of London's post workers leave every year.

However, the union believes the bonus could set one office against the other. Instead, it wants an increase in London weighting, now

£27.98 for inner London and £15.14 for outer London.

Mr Cockburn said: "This really is a cloud cuckoo land situation. The union is going to throw the nation's mail into chaos today because the Royal Mail wants to pay some of the

union's members extra money in difficult recruitment areas. What a daft dispute."

The Post Office says that postmen can now expect to earn £130 nationally, £145 in outer London and £157.50 inside the capital. With overtime and bonuses, the respective figures are £192.50, £202.50 and £242.50.

However, the key element to the dispute lies in the fact that the bonuses are only available to post workers who have worked for at least a year.

New recruits unable to earn bonuses or overtime are £20 to £50 worse off nationally. Even with the new supplements which the Post Office wants to introduce, management says London post workers would be £20 to £50 worse off than the rest of the workforce.

The union payment of the supplement is a first move towards imposing regional

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Gadaffi condemns killing of his political critics



Colonel Gaddafi: "Masses must confront enemies."

Tripoli (Reuters, AP) — Colonel Gaddafi has accused his own Revolutionary Committees of murdering political opponents.

In a speech to committee members broadcast on television and radio, the Libyan leader, aged 44, said that some people had infiltrated the movement and "liquidated" political opponents. "Terrorism, if it arises, must be terrorism of the masses and not individual or committee terrorism," he said.

Colonel Gaddafi formed the committees in 1977 to defend and lead his revolution, a blend of populist socialism and Islam. They had sweeping security and intelligence functions, and thousands of youths enlisted in them.

In Monday night's speech, Colonel Gaddafi ordered the committees to restrict their operations in future to

neighbourhood "People's Congresses" and indicated that their days were numbered. "We want the next phase to be one in which the masses themselves, not the Revolutionary Committees, confront the enemies," he said.

Diplomats said that public discontent had risen last year because of harassment by the committees, economic austerity, and an unpopular war with Chad, Libya's southern neighbour. Libya's General People's Congress (Parliament) passed a human rights charter in June guaranteeing freedom of expression and denouncing violence.

In what diplomats said was a move to shore up popular support, Colonel Gaddafi in March bulldozed a prison and

fired its inmates, some of whom were believed to be political prisoners.

He said that the black market, which has flourished because of the lack of goods in state stores, was a positive development that showed the people's initiative in meeting their needs.

Within the past year, more consumer goods began making their way into Libya, especially after the colonel eased restrictions with neighbouring Tunisia.

About a year ago, Tripoli's souk near Green Square was virtually deserted, with the few goods for sale attracting few shoppers. Now at mid-morning the souk is elbow to elbow with Libyans buying clothes, tapes of such pop artists as Madonna and Sting, and jewellery.

Colonel Gaddafi told the rally he envisaged a society "without government, police or army".

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NEWS ROUNDUP

Sky staff oppose non-union plan

Television technicians at Sky Television, the satellite venture owned by Mr Rupert Murdoch, came out yesterday against the company's non-union plan.

The contingent of 30 members of the Association of Cinematograph, Television, and Allied Technicians decided to put forward new proposals to Mr Jim Styles, Sky's managing director.

It is understood the meeting came down strongly in favour of retaining a union with negotiating rights and there was a strong vote in favour of the proposals being forwarded to management.

Mr Styles disclosed the non-union plan over the weekend at the Edinburgh International Television Festival. The company has said that employees refusing to go along with the scheme will have to go.

Helicopter inquiry

The Civil Aviation Authority yesterday began an investigation into an accident in which a woman walked into the whirling blade of a helicopter at a village fête. Miss Sarah Chapman, aged 23, sustained arm injuries when she was hit by a tail rotor in Uffington, Oxfordshire. Captain John Wood, the pilot of the helicopter, which had been on loan to the fête to give visitors rides, said Miss Chapman had surprised marshalls when she tried to walk behind the machine, despite warning shouts. There were "No Entry" signs and the area had been roped off.

Village owner secret

The village of Glympton in Oxfordshire has a new owner and lord of the manor, but the villagers do not know his identity. The Glympton Park Estate has been sold within weeks of coming on to the market at a price of about £11 million and the buyer has paid more than that, though less than the £15 million rumoured in the village to be the cost. Savills, the agents responsible for the sale, yesterday said that the new owner did not wish to be named. But they said the estate had not been bought by either a member of the Royal Family or the National Trust.

Christ film decision

Mrs Mary Whitehouse has abandoned plans to bring a private prosecution for blasphemous libel against *The Last Temptation of Christ*, the film by Martin Scorsese. She has received legal advice that a judge would be unlikely to give permission for a private prosecution if Mr Allan Green, the Director of Public Prosecutions, decides to take no action. Mr Green was said yesterday to be considering the case for a criminal prosecution, but a spokesman was unable to predict when he would make a decision.

'Shorter week' call

Leaders of more than a million engineering workers are launching a big campaign for a four-hour cut in their working week. The Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions (CSEU) will launch the campaign for a 35-hour week on September 12, 11 days before formally submitting its annual pay claim to the Engineering Employers' Federation. Mr Alec Ferry, CSEU general secretary, said: "The affiliated unions in the CSEU have pledged themselves to ensure that the campaign is effective and successful."

Welders still striking

Four hundred welders at the Vickers shipyard in Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, stayed on strike yesterday as the remainder of 13,000 men reported for work at the end of their 12-week dispute. The strike is unofficial. The men, all members of the GMB union, are demanding extra payment for working in "hot and hazardous" conditions.

SLD calls for new TV policy

By Richard Evans
Media Editor

The appointment of BBC and Independent Broadcasting Authority governors should be taken out of government hands after Mrs Margaret Thatcher's repeated choice of political favourites, the Social and Liberal Democrats said yesterday.

A policy paper on the future of British television recommended that such appointments be made by a parliamentary select committee or a new broadcasting appointments commission.

"We regard the independence and fairness of the BBC and IBA as central to the maintenance of the quality and standards of domestic broadcasting in the UK."

"In the past the appointment of governors of the BBC and IBA has been, by and large, non-political. But under Mrs Thatcher we have seen these appointments becoming increasingly politicized."

"This trend threatens to undermine the independence and impartiality of both bodies, and consequently to undermine public confidence at home and abroad in the quality and fairness of the UK's broadcasting services as a whole", the document said.

The policy paper, to be discussed at next month's SLD conference, also said British television would be damaged beyond repair if the imminent broadcasting revolution led to a drop in standards.

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I won't handle a danger chemical cargo again, says Austrian captain

'Toxic' ship stays put awaiting orders

By Andrew Morgan

The captain of the West German freighter the Karin B, anchored 18 miles south-west of Plymouth with its cargo of toxic waste, yesterday told *The Times* that it would be the last time he handled such a cargo.

Captain Richard Hotinterleitner raised an arm in a salute as the Karin B, with 2,000 tonnes of Italian toxic chemicals on board, was buzzed by inquisitive helicopters as it lay at anchor at its latest resting place, after being rejected by Spain and West Germany on leaving Nigeria with its cargo last June.

Speaking on the ship's radio about plans for his cargo, the captain said he was awaiting a telex from the

Italian government this morning telling him where to sail, but he had no inkling of the destination — only that it was unlikely to be a British port.

Captain Hotinterleitner said: "I am a simple mariner who has never been involved with this sort of controversy before. I have worked for several shipping companies and all I am doing is fulfilling the orders of the Italian government. I don't think I'll be handling toxic waste again."

Captain Hotinterleitner, from Kindberg, in Austria, a skipper for 18 years, said he could understand why Britain refused to handle his cargo and agreed that it would never be permitted in his own country. No

country has shown the slightest inclination to handle the waste and, as if he thought he could well be at sea forever, he replied: "I think that must be a little joke".

A Royal Navy vessel, believed to be a fisheries protection ship, yesterday stood about five miles off the Karin B to ensure that heavy shipping did not get too near.

Brixham coastguard also broadcast warnings throughout the day of the ship's location and its hazardous cargo.

There are 167 containers on board the Karin B holding the toxic waste in drums, some of which are said to have started leaking.

Across the mountainous waves yesterday afternoon, in winds re-

corded at force eight, some of the containers, marked boldly with the name of the Sicilian port of Messina, appeared to be stained, but Captain Hotinterleitner insisted that none was leaking.

However, he admitted he had no idea what chemicals were in the drums, their relative toxicity or the level of dangers they posed.

He said that doctors had examined his eight-strong crew both in Nigeria and Cadiz, where the ship had stopped in an unsuccessful attempt to unload, but no medical problems had been found.

Captain Hotinterleitner, courteous and affable, agreed that some drums had been leaking solvents when the 3,230 tonne Karin B had

arrived in Nigeria to be loaded. But he said the drums had been re-packed and the containers properly sealed.

He also denied reports that a Nigerian dock worker had died during the exercise.

The Karin B has been at sea for 28 days and the ship has only 12 days of supplies left.

After that, it will either have to dock for fuel and food or, more likely, have to request supplies to be sent out by barge.

Yesterday, as the winds gusts to force nine, Captain Hotinterleitner said that if there was a storm at his anchorage point he would go to the Bay of Biscay for safety while awaiting instructions.

Cancer-causing agents in cargo

By Peter Mulligan

Highly corrosive liquids, substances posing a fire risk and about 250 tonnes of cancer-causing Polychlorinated Biphenyls are among the cargo of the Karin B, according to Friends of the Earth.

The environmental group carried out tests on the toxic waste in the village of Koko, Nigeria, while it lay dumped there earlier this year.

It says markings on the drums available for inspection suggested that the countries of origin might include Norway, West Germany and Italy.

The inspection, performed by scientists wearing protective suits and respirators, disclosed that about a third of the 10,000 drums were in poor condition and some were leaking.

In its report, Friends of the Earth Ltd says many of the drums were in an extremely poor condition, posing "considerable physical hazard".

The report says: "The drums are rusting quickly in the humid climate and many are ruptured or leaking. Certain drums are bulging under the positive pressures which are probably caused by volatile liquid exerting a high vapour pressure..."

Others had been "recycled", with markings showing their original contents, but with little or no indication of their present contents. The consignments in Koko, part of which now forms the cargo of the Karin B, contained some of the most difficult and intrac-



A crewman, with the message 'Look don't touch' on his T-shirt, on the Karin B yesterday.

table wastes produced by industry in the developed nations, the report says.

In particular, there was evidence of a wide range of organic wastes which had been shown to be inappropriate for land-based technologies, such

as landfill. However, Mr Edward Wilkinson, group services director of Leigh Interests Ltd, of the West Midlands, said his company had offered to inspect the cargo after being approached by an Italian company.

"We are daily dealing with all sorts of chemical accidents and spillages, in factories and on the roads, and this is no different. We would deal with it in a proper way with proper back-up from a government consultant analyst", he said.

Waste disposers defend their art

By David Nicholson-Lord

Britain's booming waste disposal industry yesterday described claims that the country was becoming the dustbin of Europe as "nonsense".

Mr Hugh Wilson, administrative director of the National Association of Waste Disposal Contractors, said: "To talk about us being the dustbin of Europe seems to assume that dustbins are undesirable. They are essential. You cannot get along without them."

With government backing for an industry regarded as profitable and legitimate, Britain's imports of waste increased from 5,000 tonnes in 1985 to 183,000 tonnes last year. Almost a third of imports are classified as special and pose serious disposal problems.

Although much of the rapid growth in Britain's imports of waste can be attributed to the relative abundance and cheapness of "holes in the ground" — landfill sites — there is growing expertise in more specialized technologies such as high-temperature incineration and polymerization.

Re-Chem International and Cleanaway Ltd, which operate incinerators at Pontypool, south Wales, Fawley, near Southampton, and Ellesmere Port in Cheshire, lead the incineration business.

Plans exist for a new generation of larger incinerators, but

these will not come on stream until the early 1990s. The rise in imports has meanwhile put existing incinerators, already under attack from environmentalists, under increasing strain.

With domestic demand for incineration last year running at about 60,000 tonnes, according to the Government's pollution inspectorate, there was an estimated shortfall of 7,000 tonnes in incinerator capacity.

Burning hazardous chemicals like polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), which formed much of the dumped Nigerian waste aboard the Karin B, can also produce toxic fumes and residues of dioxin, the deadly substance involved in the Seveso tragedy in 1976.

Re-Chem closed one incinerator, at Bonnybridge in Scotland, after environmental criticism. Its plant at Pontypool has come under attack for allegedly causing deaths and deformities in farm animals. The claims have been discounted by the Welsh Office.

Plans for a new incinerator with a 30,000-tonne capacity have also been announced by Ocean Trading and Transport.

Through its Cory Waste Management subsidiary in Thurrock, Essex, Ocean Trading operates a process that polymerizes and renders inert intractable waste.

Pay of Holloway strikers is stopped

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The Prison Department yesterday stopped the pay of striking officers at Holloway jail in north London.

There was mounting anger among Conservative MPs at the disclosure that strikers were still being paid, even though they had broken an agreement to return to work, according to the Home Office.

After the disclosure, Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark, Conservative MP for Selly Oak, called on Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, to intervene personally.

Mr John Wheeler, Conservative MP for Westminster North and chairman of the all-party Home Affairs Select Committee, said: "Until the Home Office has the courage to take control of the prison

system and remove the management from the Prison Officers' Association, this farcical mismanagement of the public's money and interests will continue."

"This latest example is just one manifestation of a trade union managing a public service for its own interests."

Mr Wheeler, a former assistant prison governor, added: "Until the Home Office faces the reality that they have to take action, they will go on being manoeuvred by the POA in the way they have been now for nearly 25 years."

But Mr John Boddington, of the POA national executive, said: "It is time that the Conservative MPs get angry not with the prison officers at Holloway but with the man-

agement at Holloway which is not adhering to what officials with the Directorate of Personnel and Finance agreed with us."

Mr Boddington said that when staff reported for work at 7.15 am yesterday they were told: "Either you go into work or you won't be paid". He added: "That would have meant them going back under the conditions that led to the dispute, rather than what had been negotiated in the past fortnight. So they stayed out."

The Home Office said: "The POA are in breach of an agreement made after national level talks two weeks ago to return to work under the governor's authority."

The association's national executive yesterday sought a

meeting with Mr Hurd, but by yesterday evening no decision had been taken.

In England and Wales yesterday there were 1,616 people held in police and court cells instead of prisons. Industrial action is taking place in Liverpool, Manchester, Wandsworth, Parkhurst and Norwich prisons, mostly to reduce the jail population.

Officers at Preston and Dartmoor are conducting a ballot on whether to take industrial action.

Nurses at Broadmoor hospital are prepared to reimpose their night-time overtime ban if health officials do not come up with a new package on pay and conditions by lunchtime today. The ban was called off last Tuesday.

Overworked hospital to be rebuilt

Birmingham Children's Hospital, recently at the centre of controversy over the death of a young child, Matthew Collier, is to be rebuilt at a cost of £28 million.

However, West Midlands Regional Health Authority has denied claims that the present hospital will be closed and services dispersed until building work begins in 1995.

Matthew, aged four, died in February this year after his parents had tried desperately to bring forward the date of his

operation for a heart condition.

The operation was postponed from September 1987 to January 1988 because of a shortage of beds.

The hospital is to be rebuilt and replaced by a "modern, purpose-built hospital for children".

Sir James Ackers, chairman of the health authority said: "We propose to build it at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Medical Centre, where it will be directly associated with

medical teaching facilities.

"To suggest that there is a plan to scatter services far and wide is nonsense."

Meanwhile, the Government was urged yesterday to rename Premium Bonds "health bonds" and to launch a national lottery to provide extra funds for research and facilities in the National Health Service.

Basic funding for the NHS should be provided by a health tax and a levy should be imposed on the alcohol in-

dustry to pay for drink-related services, a Green Paper produced by the Social Democratic Party says.

The document also calls for the proportion of GDP spent on health care to increase from 5.9 to 7 per cent.

Dr David Owen, the leader of the SDP, estimated that health bonds could contribute between £200 million to £300 million annually for the next two years, while a lottery could raise £500 million, earmarked for research.

Kinnock 'trying to do too much'

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

A leading member of the Shadow Cabinet today accuses Mr Neil Kinnock of pushing too hard and attempting to do everything himself.

Mr John Prescott, who is challenging Mr Roy Hattersley for the deputy leadership of the party, says the Labour leader has become too intense and has lost his sense of humour.

Being leader of the Labour Party is the worst job in the world and Mr Kinnock is under phenomenal stress, Mr Prescott says.

"He knows that there are people trying to pull him down, so that means sometimes he tries to take his fences a little too fast, which has got him into trouble. Sometimes his enthusiasm to win means he pushes too hard."

Mr Prescott, who is shadow energy spokesman, offers ad-

vice to Mr Kinnock whose rating in the latest opinion poll is the worst since he became leader. "He needs to use his humour. He used to have it, but he's lost it."

"He's becoming too intense, he needs to get his old self across and to remember that he can't do everything", Mr Prescott says in an interview in *Woman's Own* magazine.

Mr Prescott admits that he respects the Prime Minister, that Labour has lost the ideological battle to the Conservatives and that some voters are frightened by party policies.

"It is not something I like to admit publicly, but Thatcher forces change and that must surely be what any politician is trying to achieve."

"As an impetus for change in what is largely a conservative country, she's produced more change than anyone since Attlee, and he only succeeded because it was after the war."

He accuses the planners of Labour's general election campaign of becoming too concerned with sloganeering.

"We have lost the ideological battle to the Tories", Mr Prescott says. "Thatcher has an ideological goal and it has undermined us. We have come to fear our own. There are generations of voters who only see Labour as a party of opposition. They hear some of our policies and it frightens them."

Mr Prescott, who is shadow energy spokesman, offers ad-

New body to fight air delays

Travellers caught up in long airport delays have a new group to champion their cause. The Sufferers' Campaign to Resolve the European Aviation Mess, or SCREAM.

It has been formed by the Air Transport Users' Committee (ATUC) and the International Foundation of Airline Passengers Associations (IFAPA) and will try to ensure the views and needs of air passengers are taken into account in future planning.

Mr John Cox, ATUC chairman, said yesterday: "No longer can we simply listen to

FLIGHTCHECK

reclamations, accept the enormity of the problem or agree the small steps to free Europe's rigidly controlled system should be retracted while we stoically suffer."

Mr Geoffrey Lipman, IFAPA executive director, said: "The problems of congestion are beyond the capacity of any single nation to resolve. We want a European Community-led master plan to develop aviation infrastructure over the next decade."

Travellers had few delays at United Kingdom airports yesterday.

Aberdeen: An Air UK flight from Amsterdam and a British Airways flight from Gatwick and Manchester arrived 25 minutes late.

Birmingham: A Dan Air flight from Mahon arrived at 8.25pm on Monday, six hours late.

Cardiff: An Air Europe flight from Ischia arrived two hours late.

Gatwick: An Air Zimbabwe flight to Harare scheduled to leave at 4.40pm on Monday finally left yesterday morning after a delay of more than 17 hours after a mechanical problem. A British Island flight to Corfu left four hours late, and a Dan Air flight to Mahon was delayed several hours.

London: Officials reported no delays of more than half an hour from both incoming and outgoing flights.

Southampton: An Air Transat flight from Vancouver was delayed for three hours.

Stockholm: The Times reported a 30-minute delay for a flight from Stockholm to London.

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UK seal population 'could be halved'

By Thomson Prentice
Science Correspondent

More than half the 25,000 common seals in British waters could be dead by the end of the year and thousands are likely to be washed up on beaches in the coming months, wildlife experts said yesterday.

The disease killing the seals, which Dutch researchers say is primarily due to the canine distemper virus (CDV), could spread like myxomatosis which killed millions of rabbits in the 1950s.

An emergency treatment centre for seals affected by the North Sea epidemic is to be set up in Norfolk after a meeting yesterday between the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and Greenpeace, the environmental group.

Wildlife experts at the meeting said that between 50 and 80 per cent of seals in British waters might die.

Mr Colin Booty, RSPCA wildlife officer, said: "Things are likely to get very much worse before they get better."

The new seal "hospital" will have the co-operation of the Sea Mammal Research Unit, Cambridge, but diseased animals will not be given CDV vaccines. "There is no point. The most we can do is save a small number of seals", Mr Booty said.

Mr Paul Vadden, wildlife campaigner for Greenpeace, said: "This is potentially the greatest ecological disaster for any wild mammal in the UK."

Local authorities in Norfolk are drawing up plans to dispose of dead seals. Each carcass will be marked with fluorescent paint to prevent multiple call-outs. In the past ten days, 250 dead or dying seals have been washed up on the east coast.

Posters are to be produced warning of potential health hazards, and an appeal is being made to dog owners to make sure their pets are vaccinated against distemper.

The European Commission suspects that Britain is responsible for some of the North Sea pollution which could be implicated in the seals' deaths. Mr Stanley Clinton Davis, the outgoing

Environment Commissioner, yesterday said that the EC believed that pollution was probably a "significant contributory factor" in the epidemic.

He attacked some countries within the community for their lack of action on pollution control.

"The death of the seals clearly shows the damage we have done to Europe's seas", he said.

He did not mention the UK by name, but Common Market insiders were convinced yesterday that his comments were aimed largely at Britain. As a commissioner he cannot single out individual member states for criticism.

Some evidence that the epidemic has spread to the Irish Sea emerged yesterday. In the past month, 30 dead seals have been found off the north coast of Co Down, compared with an annual average of 100 deaths around the coast of Northern Ireland.

Scientists are carrying out tests on blood samples from several animals to determine whether there is a link with the North Sea epidemic.

Olympic screen deal agreed

By John Goodbody, Sports News Correspondent

BBC and independent television have agreed not to show next month's Olympic Games at the same time during peak viewing hours in the evenings.

The four national networks will between them show at least 25 hours of televised sport from Seoul daily, but most of the duplicate coverage will take place during the night and early mornings.

The arrangement is unique to the Olympic Games, although similar agreements have been made in the past for other important sports events including last June's European Football Championship in West Germany, when channels alternated matches up to the final.

Independent television will put out its evening wrap-up of the day's events during the

week from 5.15pm to 6.30pm, with a break for ITN news at 5.45pm.

BBC 1 will begin its programme at 7pm, continuing until 8pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays, when *EastEnders*, the most popular programme on any channel, will begin half-an-hour later than usual. The BBC's programme *The Olympics Today* will run until 8.30pm or 9pm on other weekdays.

Both sides are claiming victory after the negotiations.

BBC will be spending almost £5.5 million on covering the Games, about £1.5 million less than independent television and Channel 4. Mr Jonathan Martin, head of BBC Television Sport and Events, said yesterday that he had originally asked for a

budget of more than £6 million but the figure was reduced after six internal meetings.

The cuts mean the BBC will not have a van at the stadium, and has lost a roving camera team.

Mr Martin is still confident the BBC will get better ratings than its rivals.

Independent television has had exclusive coverage of domestic athletics for four years, but Mr Martin claims when both channels covered the same meetings abroad "ratings have been 3.45 or even 8-10 in our favour".

BBC and independent television together have paid about £1 million towards the European Broadcasting Union's rights to screen

Cleveland cash to help child abuse families start again

By Peter Davenport

Families caught up in the child sexual abuse crisis in Cleveland last year were yesterday offered an unprecedented package of financial assistance to help to rebuild their lives.

Mr Bruce Stevenson, chief executive of Cleveland County Council, said yesterday: "It is a novel idea and the object is to create a new beginning with the families and get out of the endless cycle of conflict". Among assistance the council will consider giving families will be the payment of removal costs for those wanting to move house, help in changing schools, and the provision of holidays.

The council made the offer as a gesture of reconciliation and an attempt to forge a new understanding and improve strained relationships. Officials expect that in some cases the financial aid to individual families will come to several thousands of pounds.

Mr Stevenson said that discussions with any families which came forward would be conducted with "common sense and goodwill". The scheme was disclosed yesterday as the council's policy and finance committee considered the wide-ranging recommendations of the special child abuse working party set up in the wake of the Butler-Sloss report.

Yesterday the council ap-

pealed to about fifty families caught up in the crisis to contact a special team headed by Mr David Ashton, secretary of the council, and explain their requirements.

He would meet the families at a location of their choosing and, if they felt unable to talk directly with the authority, he would deal with any organization or representative of their choice.

The cases will then be considered by a council sub-committee which said it was prepared to commit time, money and support to try to meet individual circumstances.

Council officials said that the scheme was not intended as compensation for the ordeal suffered by families, both those in which sexual abuse had been proved and those in which the allegations were subsequently found to be false.

Mr Stevenson said the offer of help was being made independently of any legal proceedings for damages being undertaken by families. Although the council believed its offer was a better way of rebuilding relationships, it would not try to dissuade any parents from legal action.

Mr Stevenson said: "It is going to take a long time and a lot of goodwill on both sides. What we are trying to do is create a climate where these things are possible, we don't

see the advantage in trying to continue to fight these matters in the courts.

"We are not trying to compensate people for the past but to help them in the future. If families feel they must go through the courts we will respect it. What is done is done and we regret some things very much indeed. But we want to get into a better environment and help the families who have been injured."

The detailed recommendations of the child abuse working party, which are expected to cost several hundred thousand pounds to implement, are now to be considered by the appropriate committees.

However, the fate of key individuals named in the Butler-Sloss report, including Mr Michael Bishop, the director of social services, and Mr Christopher Payne, the chief constable, will be decided later in the year by the committees responsible for their employment.

The moves by the council were welcomed yesterday by one of the parents caught up in the crisis last year. The man, who is a member of the organization Parents Against Injustice (PAI), said: "The assistance to move home and change school will be welcomed by many of the families. Some have already taken matters into their own hands and moved house."

Heath's farewell to an old friend



Mr Edward Heath saying goodbye to Ching-Chia, Mao Tse-tung's panda, at London Zoo yesterday. Ching-Chia and his late mate Ching-Ching to Mr Heath, then Prime Minister, in 1974 when Britain resumed diplomatic relations with China. The panda, now 16, travels to Mexico tomorrow to meet his new mate, Tohui, a mere six. (Photograph: Marc Aspland)

Esperanto makes the grade in GCSE exams

By Our Education Staff

The GCSE examination may be under attack from all sides but at least one group believes it is an unqualified success.

The British Esperanto Teachers Association said yesterday it was delighted with the results of the first GCSE Esperanto examination in which more than 63 percent of candidates scored A grades. Mr Geoff Hammerton, the

association's spokesman, said the results demonstrated that Esperanto was worthy of study.

All 60 candidates who took the Northern Examining Association paper achieved graded results, with 77 per cent gaining grades A to C.

Inquiries by the chairman of the Joint Council for the GCSE into claims that an unnamed examination board had rigged results to ensure that the examination

appeared to be a success were delayed yesterday because some examination board offices do not reopen after the Bank holiday until today.

The Curriculum Council, set up by the Government to oversee the introduction of a national curriculum in state schools, was told yesterday by Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, that it must produce detailed plans by the end of this month.

Disabled man's killers sought

Police are hunting killers who tortured a disabled man in his own home with a knife and his crutch and left him tied up to die.

Marcus Law, aged 36, who was confined to a wheelchair after a road accident some years ago, is thought to have let his attackers into his home in Denman Road, Waltham-on-Avon, Rotherham.

Det Supt Keith Smith, who is leading the search with 100 officers, said: "We are talking about a disabled person who cannot defend himself. It was a brutal and sadistic killing. We have not established a motive at the moment. He was a person who was well liked. He was very well-known about the estate in his wheelchair and was often pushed by his friends."

"We do not know his movements between Saturday night and Monday morning when his body was found by a relative alerted by a local warden who saw his curtains closed."

Mr Law moved into his home a few months ago after winning a battle with the local council to be moved from his first-floor flat in the same street.

Scotland Yard detectives hunting for the killer of Christopher Wandless, a student, who was shot in the back in south London, are trying to trace a young man seen fleeing from the scene.

The man was seen running up East Hill in Wandsworth, minutes after Mr Wandless, aged 20, was fatally wounded by two shots from a sawn-off shotgun.

Yesterday forensic scientists began examining pellets recovered after the shooting. The gunman was careful not to eject the cartridges.

Mr Wandless was attacked early on Monday as he walked to his sister's home, following the route of a late-night bus.

Sisters attack abuse decision

Three sisters who were sexually abused as children insisted on being named yesterday in protest at a court's decision not to jail their uncle.

William Gordon, aged 63, escaped with an admonishment at Glasgow Sheriff Court after being found guilty at an earlier hearing of numerous indecency offences against his nieces.

The sisters, who are now adults, wept at the sentence and insisted that their names be published.

The eldest, Mrs Mary Campbell, aged 25, who later collapsed outside the court,

said her marriage had broken down because of the abuse.

"It's an absolute scandal that this monster should be free to walk the streets after what he did to us," she said.

Gordon, of Kingsheath Avenue, Rutherglen, Strathclyde, was found guilty of six charges including several indecency offences against Mrs Campbell and her sisters, Miss Cathy Divers, aged 24, and Miss Janet Divers, aged 18.

The offences were committed over a 16-year period starting in 1970. They began on the youngest girl's sixth birthday and continued into their teens.

The matter came to light only when Mrs Campbell broke down while discussing her marriage with a social worker. Police discovered that the other sisters had also been abused and Gordon was arrested.

Sheriff Francis Keane yesterday deferred sentence for six months after hearing Gordon had suffered a stroke.

The sheriff said that because of Gordon's physical condition imprisonment would be an excessive sentence and a fine would not meet the gravity of the offences which had done "untold harm".

Notting Hill Carnival

Police claim safety success

By Edward Gorman

The Notting Hill Carnival was one of the safest yet with crime well down on previous years, according to police figures released yesterday.

The police said the success of the two-day event was due largely to the introduction of sealed-off roads, or "sterile zones", in the heart of the carnival area, comprehensive video surveillance of an agreed carnival route and an earlier close on both nights.

Only 100 victims of crime were recorded, compared with 634 last year, an 85 per cent drop and the lowest in the 23-year history of the carnival.

Mr Paul Condon, Deputy Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, who was in charge of the multi-million pound police operation involving up to 10,000 officers, said this year's carnival had shown the event could be safe and trouble-free.

He said: "I hope the carnival community will build on this year's success. Public safety issues must remain at the forefront of all the planning, and in future more attention must be paid to more effective stewarding."

The police said there had been 212 arrests during the two days, which was 18 per cent more than last year. However, the number of crimes reported, 193, was 73 per cent down. There were 21 casualties, of which six were described as serious.

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, said: "Everyone in the community and the police who were involved in its planning and who took part

in carnival must be delighted that this year saw a return of the true spirit of carnival.

"A lot of credit for this is due to the arrangements made by the Metropolitan Police to ensure public safety and frustrate the small minority who come to Notting Hill for crime, not carnival."

There was some concern that the Notting Hill Carnival Arts Committee (CAC), had raised thousands of pounds by selling licences to street traders without the authority of the relevant local councils.

The CAC said it sold between 300 and 400 licences for between £55 and £95. CAC leaders said they had gone ahead with the licensing after

the breakdown of negotiations with local councils.

The police said they believed the CAC did not have the right to levy money on council streets. Mrs Pamela Batty, vice-chairman of Westminster council's environment committee, said she wanted to know why the money had not been made available to offset street-cleaning costs.

Mr John Thompson, aged 22, a security guard hired by the BBC to protect camera crews at the carnival, has been bailed to appear before Marylebone, central London, magistrates next Tuesday charged with the possession of a CS gas canister and two charges of possessing offensive weapons.

Official drinks probe after holiday brawls

After Bank holiday brawls on licensed premises, the Government has launched a group, led by Mr John Wakeham, Leader of the House of Commons, to ask interested bodies for their views on alcohol abuse.

The drinks industry, magistrates, social workers and the TUC are among those to be canvassed on how the problem can best be tackled.

Bank holiday disturbances included a fight among 100 people in a Portsmouth public house and a brawl involving two off-duty policemen in Norwich.

Police interviewed 13 security guards in Portsmouth

yesterday after a pitched battle with knives, snooker cues, pick axe handles and sticks was fought among 100 people at The Beacon public house.

The guards had apparently been brought in on Monday night to protect staff after the police had been called to the building two days before. Eight people were treated in hospital and 17 were arrested as 50 police officers quelled the fighting.

One witness said a fire-extinguisher was set off in his face and he was struck on the head during the fight which left the public house devastated.

London's all-day road jam

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

The roads of central London are as clogged up with traffic in the middle of the day as they are at rush hours, according to an analysis published yesterday.

The study, by the Department of Transport, shows that average speed is 11.5mph in the morning peak, and falls marginally to 11mph during day-time off-peak hours, as well as in the evening rush hour. The report says that "The low average traffic speed in the central area and its uniformity between 7am and 7pm is evidence that the central area roads may be used to capacity for most of the working day."

It suggests that the slow

speeds outside the rush hours may not be the result of the amount of moving traffic, but that parking may reduce the capacity of the roads in the middle of the day.

It shows that daytime off-peak speeds for London as a whole have been virtually unchanged, at 20.9mph in 1986, compared with 21.3mph in 1968.

Those statistics reinforce the warning given by Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Transport, that London was in danger of grinding to a halt within a decade unless something was done.

The figures were released just as Milan, in Italy, was introducing severe restrictions

on vehicles seeking to enter its commercial centre during working hours.

Cars are banned from doing so unless the driver holds a permit.

The London Planning Advisory Council, which represents all London boroughs on planning matters, said it was pressing the Department of Transport to review methods of restraining traffic.

The council put forward options for limiting traffic in central areas earlier this year. One was that a fee, possibly £5 a day, could be levied.

London Traffic Monitoring Report for 1987, Stationery Office, £12.

Milan traffic, page 7

C&C Computers and Communications

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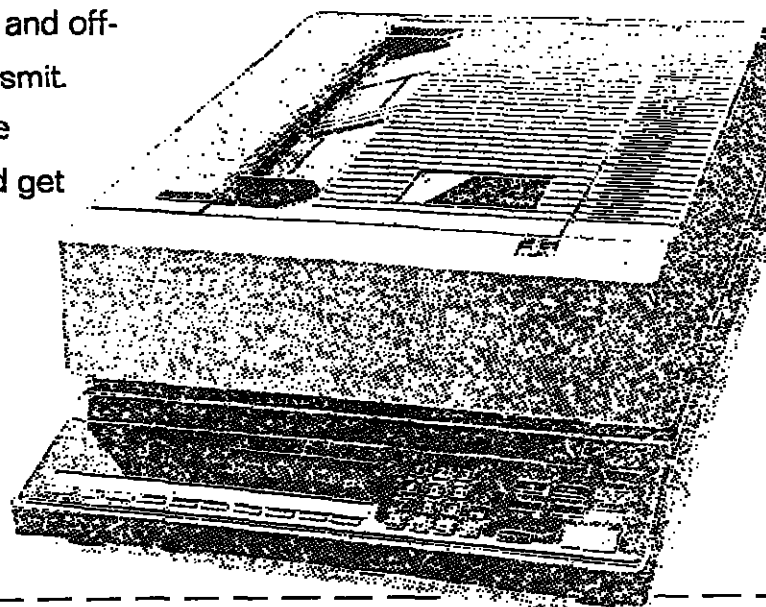
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TUC launches its biggest campaign yet on work safety

By Roland Rudd, Employment Affairs Reporter

Thousands of British employees are facing increasing threats to their health because safety standards in workplaces are declining rapidly, Mr Norman Willis, general secretary of the Trades Union Congress, said yesterday.

His statement came as the TUC launched its biggest drive yet against deaths, injuries and sickness at work to combat the rising accident rate in the agricultural, construction and manufacturing sectors.

"Disasters such as Bradford City football ground, Zeebrugge, King's Cross and Piper Alpha show the tragic cost of failure to ensure safety", Mr Willis said. "But smaller, avoidable tragedies keep on occurring every day with sickening and predictable regularity."

The TUC believes a decline in safety standards has been caused by reducing the number of health and safety inspectors, while progress based on existing legislation is being hampered by cuts in government resources to the Health and Safety Executive.

More than 700 people were killed at work last year, and

178,000 injuries were notified to health and safety authorities. Many work-related deaths are not reportable, and in many areas the TUC believes there is a chronic under-reporting of injuries.

In addition, the TUC says hundreds of thousands of workers are exposed to serious hazards causing long-term health damage - work-related cancer alone is estimated to account for 6,000 to 7,000 deaths a year.

The TUC, which will publish a million copies of its guide on health and safety, entitled *Hazards at Work*, will run its campaign throughout next year, with the aim of intensifying action by trade unionists who serve as workplace safety representatives and serve on safety committees.

Trade unionists are being urged to make regular inspections of workplaces, investigate accidents, ensure full consultation by employees on issues such as workplace changes and use their right to attend TUC or union-approved training courses.

The TUC is also seeking the full implementation of new

laws covering noise, hazardous substances, asbestos and other dangers.

It wants the Health and Safety Executive's information and advisory services expanded and would like to see more visits by inspectors to workplaces.

Mr Willis wants to see increased publicity about offenders and believes the average fine of £500 last year was woefully small.

The TUC report calls for the executive to be expanded and a 25 per cent pruning of its staff since 1979 reversed.

Instead of waiting for accidents or health disasters to happen before taking action, the report says hazards should be tackled at the design stage with full information about risks and precautions being provided to workers and trade union representatives.

Mr Willis said: "Workers have a right not to be killed and a right not to be maimed. No one should ever forget the sense of anger, frustration and despair that follows a fatal accident or a case of industrial disease that could so easily have been prevented by taking simple precautions."

Tent with the right connections



A familiar striped tent used by British Telecom engineers sitting inconspicuously on sands on the isolated Dee estuary, Lancashire, as Mr Roger Rathbone repairs a telephone cable damaged when a yacht dragged its sea anchor. The cable connects Hlilre Island, several miles out in the estuary, where a bird sanctuary is

maintained by a resident warden. Treacherous tides which sweep swiftly through the estuary have claimed several lives. Mr Rathbone and his partner, Mr Peter Hadwyn, both of Liverpool, make the journey in a specially-adapted Land Rover and work to a strict time limit before the sea returns. Within a few

hours, the area where he is working will be covered by deep water. Mr Rathbone said: "It's all in a day's work. We were born near here so we know the island and the tides and the problem areas in the sand very well. Mind you, we never take any risks and we keep a close weather eye on the clock."

Firearms amnesty in wake of massacre

By Peter Evans

A two-stage campaign to tighten gun control after the Hungerford massacre begins tomorrow with a month-long firearms amnesty.

The last amnesty, in 1968, led to the public surrendering more than 25,000 weapons and nearly 800,000 rounds of ammunition.

The second stage of the campaign will be a government scheme to compensate owners of weapons to be prohibited under firearms legislation before Parliament. A "buy-in" scheme will operate for three months after legislation takes effect.

Under the Firearms (Amendment) Bill, individuals would not be allowed to hold certain weapons previously authorized by a certificate. The weapons would have lost most or all of their market value. They include self-loading rifles, burst-fire weapons, and rapid-fire, short-barrel shotguns.

The main option would be a payment of £150 for self-loading rifles, expected to form the majority of eligible weapons. A second option, for owners of all banned weapons, would be a payment of 50 per cent of the average retail value of the firearm in the summer of 1987.

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30	£33,470	£66,976	£100,437	£167,414	
35	£23,809	£47,632	£72,472	£122,554	
40	£15,482	£31,336	£47,002	£78,790	
45	£9,334	£18,671	£28,258	£47,318	
50	£5,183	£10,582	£15,871	£26,815	
55	£2,411	£5,010	£7,609	£12,807	

The figures opposite show how much existing investors are receiving from Norwich Union. Simply find the nearest age to your own down the left hand column, then read across from left to right and you'll see the appropriate figures for a monthly investment of £10, £20, £30 and £50. Of course, you can invest more. Your Personal Illustration will indicate the sum you could expect to receive on retirement. The figures illustrated are based upon actual payouts as at 1.7.88 for an Endowment with profits policy for male ages at outset, and paying equivalent monthly premiums as shown, with a retirement age of 65. In most cases, females would have received more. The values shown have been achieved over a period of high inflation and high investment returns. The past is not necessarily a guide to the future. CASH SECURITY PLAN is based on Norwich Union's with profits Endowment policy.

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30	£3,660	£7,834	£12,004	£20,349	
35	£2,976	£6,370	£9,761	£16,547	
40	£2,363	£5,058	£7,750	£13,137	
45	£1,838	£3,934	£6,028	£10,218	
50	£1,361	£2,913	£4,464	£7,566	
55	£913	£1,954	£2,995	£5,076	

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Census office set to be 'hived off'

By David Walker, Public Administration Correspondent

A memorandum to the Prime Minister has revealed that the office which values business property for taxes and rating, customs and excise duty collection and the social survey division of the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys are among the next areas of the Civil Service to be hived off from Whitehall.

The private memorandum to Mrs Margaret Thatcher from Mr Peter Kemp, the permanent secretary in charge of implementing the plan to decentralize executive work has recommended these areas in addition to the 29 elements of Civil Service activity already identified.

They form part of 37 further blocks of work to be considered for treatment as "agencies" to be headed by chief executives and administered outside normal lines of responsibility. Mr Kemp also lists the agencies which have been agreed. One, the Vehicle Inspectorate which monitors MOT testing, was announced earlier this month.

According to a report to the

Prime Minister last year from Sir Robin Ibbes, her efficiency adviser, the plan ought to reduce costs and make the Civil Service more efficient.

Mr Kemp tells the Prime Minister in the memorandum that agency status may be a forerunner of privatization.

The argument is that once Civil Servants have become accustomed to working with commercial-style accounting procedures, selling the operations to the private sector will be easier.

Reaction to the leaked memorandum from Civil Service unions yesterday was mixed.

The Institution of Professional Civil Servants said yesterday its members were in favour of increased efficiency, as long as a recent pay agreement with the Treasury providing for more flexible arrangements within a common structure of salaries was maintained.

The Council of Civil Service Unions said yesterday that it was demanding to see a copy of the leaked memorandum.

Parents are cautioned over cosmetic surgery

By Patrick O'Hanlon

Parents of children waiting for cosmetic surgery were warned by senior surgeons yesterday to consider the risks.

The warning comes after the death of Simon Boot, aged 12, whose parents agreed to cosmetic surgery to have his ears pinned back - an operation performed on more than 100 children each year. He died after suffering an adverse reaction to the anaesthetic.

Dr Maurice Burrows, president-elect of the Association of Anaesthetists, said: "Prominent ears are the most common cosmetic surgery operation among children."

"With healthy young people the risks are usually low, but no operation is absolutely

without risk." Anaesthesia is administered according to a child's weight, not age.

"With this sort of operation the anaesthetist is a little way from the airways," Dr Burrows explained. "The child has a tube put into his lungs, which is not difficult or uncommon. But all these things carry a risk."

Mr Ian Todd, president of the Royal College of Surgeons, said: "With cosmetic surgery you have to weigh up whether the risk is worth taking for the benefit you achieve."

Children can almost always receive cosmetic surgery on the health service, including treatment for unsightly birthmarks and scars.

Britain's model space programme takes off

By Robert Matthews, Technology Correspondent

Britain's official space programme may be in the doldrums, but a small band of enthusiasts is determined to see a scaled-down version take off.

The British Space Modelling Association has persuaded the Government's Explosives Inspectorate - after several years of campaigning - that miniature, solid-fuel rocket engines built in the US should be allowed into the UK.

The engines, costing as little as £4, but capable of projecting small rockets hundreds of feet into the air, are now becoming available in model shops.

Mr Paul Clark, a founder of the association and lecturer in design history at Brighton Polytechnic, said that the hobby has for many years inspired young people in the US and the Eastern bloc to take up aerospace careers. However, UK authorities had been less than enthusiastic.

"In this country, you've only got to say rocket and bureaucrats think of V-2s," Mr Clark said.

to mix chemicals in the garden shed to make rocket propellants, but factory-built motors may now be fitted into home-made models.

Model rocketry nearly suffered the same fate as the full-sized space programme when British companies failed to express an interest in making the engines. Estes, an American company, has had its model engines approved for use in Britain.

In spite of the lifting of restrictions, Mr Clark emphasizes that model rocketry is not for the foolhardy and required a responsible attitude to safety.

Association members are already launching detailed replicas of famous rockets, including the V-2 - all made from card, wood and plastic. Metal parts are not allowed. They all descend gracefully below parachutes or streamers which slow the fall to Earth.

"The principles are easy to grasp, but there are many interesting twists," Mr Clark said.

"There's something about fire and smoke that's fundamentally appealing."

More offer h cover ars as

Doctors in hosta

Call for rese second-han

More firms offer health cover and cars as perks

By John Spicer, Employment Affairs Correspondent

Private medical insurance is now one of the most widely available "perks" for employees, and company cars are becoming easier to obtain for managers as status symbols, according to a study of benefits provided for workers at all levels.

A survey of 317 companies and organizations covering the industrial, service and financial sectors has found that 89 per cent of them pay at least some of the costs of private medical insurance for some employees, compared with 83 per cent in 1987 and 74 per cent in 1980.

Mr Richard Bednarek, of Hay Management Consultants, which carried out the survey, said the provision of pensions and assistance with lunch payments are more widespread perks for employees, but medical insurance was now high on the list of benefits of more companies than ever.

However, fewer than a quarter of the firms questioned said they provided medical insurance for their manual workers. The survey showed that 89 per cent provided it for senior management staff, 54 per cent for professional, technical and supervisory staff, 35 per cent for clerical staff, and 22 per cent for manual workers.

The companies reported that on average, the income level for managers to be given a car on the basis of "status" as opposed to job requirements was £19,857 in non-financial companies and £21,591 in financial companies. Last year, managers receiving company cars on that basis were generally earning £20,625 and £21,940 in those two sectors respectively.

The authors of the survey say the level of eligibility has significantly fallen for the first time since 1980. But they say it is still true that when measured in terms of job size, cars are awarded at more relatively junior managerial positions in financial organizations, particularly banks, than in non-financial organizations.

Since the survey was carried

out, the taxable benefits of a company car have been doubled, so that the manager whose marginal rate of income tax was 40 per cent last year pays twice as much this year. Hay Management says it is still too early to predict the impact that the tax changes might have on further extensions of company car entitlements to more junior managers.

After changes in personal pension legislation came into force in April, the survey found that 74 per cent of the companies questioned said they encouraged all employees to join their company scheme.

Only one of the organizations surveyed said it had a policy of encouraging employees to make their own arrangements. Seventeen per cent of companies had not yet decided their policy.

The survey showed that growth in executive share option schemes was continuing, with 41 per cent of organizations operating them, compared with 36 per cent last year.

Last night the Institute of Directors said the value of owning a company car had been eroded in the last Budget and next year could well see a reversal in company policy.

Mr Andrew Hutchinson, the institute's principle research executive, said the IOD preferred higher salaries that enabled senior managers and executives to spend as they wished.

"Over the years, reductions in taxes have generally been swallowed up by the erosion of concessions enjoyed by company car owners. However, a great deal of prestige and status is attached to a company car, but it is certainly less valuable than it was."

Mr Hutchinson said the increased provision of private medical insurance showed that companies were reading the way the mind of the Government was working.

Hay Survey of Employee Benefits (Hay Management Consultants Ltd, 52 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1; £625 for each of two volumes).

Trauma conference

Doctors urged to form hostage team

An international squad of psychological trouble-shooters should be set up to cope with hostage or kidnapping crises, a conference was told yesterday.

Dr John Potter, a leading hostage expert, told the first European Conference on Traumatic Stress that the increasing number of hostage situations made such a squad essential.

Dr Potter, a post-doctoral research fellow at the Department of Psychology at Plymouth Polytechnic, said that the increase in hostage incidents appeared to be due to a "copycat" effect.

He added that was most recently true in prison riots, where roof-stripping and damaging property had been supplemented by taking hostages, usually prison warders.

"Expedient hostage-taking is likely to increase due to media amplification", he told the conference in Lincoln.

Dr Potter cited the TWA airliner hijack of 1985 as a classic example of media coverage working to hostage takers' advantage.

When hostages were gradually released from a large group, "the public relations effect very much acts in favour of the hostage-takers, who increasingly are seen as showing feelings of compassion".

Call for research on 'second-hand stress'

Emotional trauma from disasters, wars and accidents can affect large numbers of people not directly involved, a leading psychologist told the conference.

Professor Charles Figley, head of family therapy and psychology at Purdue University, Indiana, said secondary victims, in many cases the friends or relatives of emotionally scarred survivors, were often neglected by counsellors.

In extreme cases, entire communities could be adversely affected — such as Hungerford after the Michael Ryan massacre — or whole countries.

"When the space shuttle disaster happened in the United States, it traumatized millions of people, particularly children who had heard about the young teacher who was on board", Professor

Figley said. He asked the 130 conference delegates to carry out more research in the field of second-hand suffering.

The Ministry of Defence was accused yesterday of a scandalous lack of concern for the mental health of Falklands veterans.

Mr Roderick Ormer, a psychologist with the North Lincolnshire Health Authority, said the ministry obstructed a three-year project to measure stress among ex-servicemen.

The study showed Falklands veterans to be suffering the same "traumatic stress" reactions as American veterans of the Vietnamese War, losing sleep, suffering emotional problems and feeling guilt.

Mr Ormer said the ministry agreed initially to help with his study, but insisted on vetting his work.

Scottish oyster farm is a pearl of success

By Kerry Gill

The old cry of "Wha' o' caller oysters" (who will have fresh oysters) could soon return to the streets of Edinburgh after 200 years if Mr Andrew Lane and Mr John Noble have their way.

The two men, who run Loch Fyne Oysters, were preparing yesterday for the oyster-eating season which traditionally begins tomorrow. In spite of the availability of oysters virtually all year round, September heralds an annual upsurge in their consumption.

One hundred years ago the British ate 1,200 million oysters a year, 50,000 tons were consumed in Edinburgh in 1869 alone, and Dr Johnson used to feed them to his cat.

However, the British eat no more than six million a year, an amount Mr Noble reckons he could produce himself within five years in the pollution-free waters at the head of Loch Fyne in Argyll.

Mr Noble, owner of the Ardinglas estate, and Mr Lane, a marine fish farmer, set up their venture 10 years ago when oysters were regarded as the province of the privileged few. Five years ago they sold about 100,000, but this year they expect to sell a million of the gigas variety.

"The coastline of Argyll has enormous potential, particularly as the water is unpolluted", Mr Noble said. The absence of pollution means that oysters can be sold direct from the loch and that



Mr Nigel Sharples, an oyster collector, setting about his daily work at the pollution-free breeding grounds of Loch Fyne (Photograph: Tom Kidd).

they retain their flavour.

Mr Noble and Mr Lane have recently opened an oyster bar and shop on the far shore of Loch Fyne, which is now selling about 3,000 oysters a week — unthinkable just a few years ago.

The gigas variety can be

sold all year round, as opposed to the native edulis type, which must lie untouched from May 14 to August 4, its spawning period, and will be in short supply again this year.

Mr Christopher Korman, director of the Colchester Oyster Company, said prices

for the edulis would be 6 per cent higher than last year.

"The company has to distribute lobsters, crabs and other shellfish because there are not sufficient native oysters surviving", he said.

There are no native oysters to be had from Whitstable

nowadays, and at Helford, the Duchy of Cornwall Oyster

Farm has, in common with other producers, been hard hit by the *bonamia* parasite. Some natives are still produced on the Solent; others are imported from Ireland.

Five thousand had to leave

Ireland a day early this year for the start of the season in London because of the threatened postal strike.

Prices for the season in London are not set yet, but it is unlikely that any edulis oysters will be obtainable for less than £1.20 each.

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Civil war risk as Burma Army waits in wings

From Neil Kelly
Bangkok

Foreign diplomats and residents in Rangoon as well as western intelligence sources last night reported persistent rumours that General Saw Maung, Burma's army chief and Defence Minister, is about to try to take over the country, an action which almost certainly would cause a civil war.

Rumours of the plans are said to be more widespread than similar ones previously and because of the turmoil across Burma many people are prepared to accept them.

Military disquiet was increased by the formation on Monday of a new political party, the League for Democracy and Peace, in defiance of the law which permits the

existence only of the ruling Burma Socialist Programme party.

Leaders of the new opposition group met yesterday to consider their next moves.

Although there is no news of significant military activities, reports that the Army will move against the popular uprising today have come from as far afield as the United States and Australia.

The hand of General Ne Win, who surrendered the leadership last month after 26 years, is seen in any possible coup.

"It could be his final attempt to stop the destruction of his one party state and 'Burma's way to socialism'," said a Western diplomat. Other diplomats said that any army move might be delayed

until national chaos became even more critical.

Nobody doubts that the military chief, General Saw Maung, is still answerable to General Ne Win. He is regarded as a henchman also of U Sein Lwin, who succeeded General Ne Win but held the leadership for only 17 days.

Despite the massive build-up of hostility to the Government and the nine-days general strike which has paralyzed most of Burma the Army has kept silent about its intentions. The Government has said and done nothing about getting the people working and the country back to some normality.

President Maung Maung's voice is heard every day on the state radio, but his words are not new.

Recordings of his statement last week are broadcast over again. He is heard speaking about the proposed referendum which will ask people to vote "Yes" or "No" for a return to multi-party democracy.

A special congress of the ruling Burma Socialist Programme party to discuss the referendum is planned for September 12, but the meeting could not be held at present as nationwide disruption of transport would prevent party delegates from getting to it. It is known that leaders are in constant session to discuss the crisis.

Although little news has filtered out it is believed that the Army, which has 170,000 men, is divided over what it should do. Hardliners

demanding tough action to put down the disturbances are thought to be in the majority, but there are a good many other officers wanting to support the former military chief, U Tin, who has emerged as the key figure in the chief opposition group, the League for Democracy and Peace.

"His role is crucial in any caretaker government that might be formed to lead Burma back to democracy," said one diplomat. He is generally regarded as the best equipped in terms of capability and reputation of all the opposition leaders.

Aged 64, he was army chief and Defence Minister and third in the ruling hierarchy when he was abruptly dismissed in 1976. Soon

afterwards he was put on trial and convicted of involvement in a plot against General Ne Win's regime.

He was sentenced to seven years' hard labour, but he was released before the full term, after four years. Since then he has kept a low profile while maintaining close links with the family of the former Burmese statesman, U Thant. The family both inside Burma and abroad have been in the forefront of opposition to General Ne Win.

Despite his official positions U Tin was never seen as one of the military officers responsible for the disastrous policies of the past quarter of a century. Many officers in the Army regard him as a hero because of his record as a battalion commander in the 1950s.

Polisario agrees to end its war with Morocco

By Susan MacDonald

In separate talks in Geneva with Senior Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the United Nations Secretary-General, both Morocco and the Polisario Front yesterday accepted a United Nations peace plan to settle their conflict in the Western Sahara.

Under the plan, both sides accept a ceasefire, which Senior Pérez de Cuellar hopes will come into force before the end of the year, and a referendum to determine the future of the former Spanish colony, which has been administered by Morocco since 1975.

Both sides agreed with UN recommendations on those entitled to vote in the referendum and on the wording to be used: "Do you wish to be independent or integrated into Morocco?"

However, Mr Bechir Moustapha Sayed, the Front's second-in-command and leader of its delegation, made it clear after his meeting with Senior Pérez de Cuellar that to ensure a free and fair referendum two fundamental issues remained to be resolved.

The Front wanted the Moroccan army to be evacuated from the Western Sahara, he said, and it wanted the Moroccan administration there to be replaced by one from the UN.

Although agreement might be reached on an international replacement administration — already hinted at by Senior Pérez de Cuellar and King Hassan of Morocco — it is the role of the 150,000-strong Moroccan force in the territory that provides the greatest stumbling block.

At present more than 1,400 miles of rubble defence walls against Polisario attacks. To withdraw these forces completely — even allowing for the small military presence which the Polisario would allow — would open the Western Sahara's frontiers to the Polisario fighters the walls were designed to keep out.

Instead it has been suggested that the Moroccan forces should be withdrawn to their local barracks.

Officially Morocco refuses to talk directly to the Polisario Front, but it is known that the two sides met discreetly a month ago and could do so again in view of the difficulties still to be overcome.

The Namibia peace plan

Cubans keep their distance as South Africans withdraw

From Michael Hornsby, Rundu, northern Namibia

South African troops and armour rumbled southwards over a pontoon bridge laid across the grey and sluggish waters of the Okavango river in bush country near here yesterday, completing one day ahead of schedule what army officers said was a "total military pull-out" from southern Angola.

Angolan and Cuban army officers, who sit with the South Africans on a joint military monitoring commission set up to supervise the ceasefire, were on hand to witness the last South African units cross the river, which here forms the border between southern Angola and northern Namibia.

Briefing reporters in a camouflaged riverside tent, Lieutenant-General Ian Gleeson, second-in-command of the South African Defence Force, said that about 1,000 men had been involved in the withdrawal. He claimed that the number of troops inside Angola had never been more than 3,000.

General Gleeson also disclosed for the first time that, in return for South Africa's withdrawal from southern Angola, the 50,000 Cuban troops in Angola had agreed to keep between 30 and 120 miles to the north of the Namibian border.

This southern limit on Cuban deployment is at its

farthest from the Namibian border in the south-eastern part of Angola, and in effect implies an undertaking by the Cubans not to take advantage of South Africa's withdrawal to attack the rear bases of the Angolan rebels of Dr Jonas Savimbi's Unita movement.

Last year South Africa mounted a big operation in Angola in support of Unita. General Gleeson said that with the SADF now out of Angola, it was obvious that "we are no longer in a position to give (Unita) any significant assistance". He said that Unita must be "a major factor" in any settlement.

Colonel Archie Moore, Pretoria's permanent representative on the commission, accompanied by his Angolan and Cuban counterparts, Major Osvaldo van Dunem and Colonel Jesús Falcón, led a large party of journalists across the bridge to Angola.

"We have given our word that all South African troops came out this morning. Our fellow-members of the commission must trust us," Colonel Moore declared.

Colonel Falcón seemed uncertain of the worth of a South African's word. "We cannot affirm that they are withdrawing," he said carefully in Spanish through an interpreter. "We hope no South Africans are left on this side." His Angolan colleague was

more optimistic. "We think that in a short while we will obtain peace," Major van Dunem said.

As Colonel Moore and his party crossed back to Namibia, South African Army engineers were already busy with crowbars and hammers, dismantling the bridge. There is much scepticism, however, that the South Africans, who have been operating inside southern Angola almost continuously since 1975, have now left for good.

Many of the lorries and armoured infantry carriers rolling back into Namibia yesterday were daubed in white paint with defiant graffiti. "No surrender", "Thumbs up for South Africa" and "The Boers will do it again".

On the Namibian side of the river, they passed under a banner proclaiming: "Welcome home, winners."

The South African withdrawal, which began on August 10, is the first in a sequence of steps planned to culminate in independence for Namibia, the former German colony which Pretoria has ruled since the First World War.

CAPE TOWN: Fourteen Swapo insurgents were shot dead by security forces in northern Namibia last week, the South West Africa Territory Force said in Windhoek.

Gun guard for bishop's Beirut mission



An armed British Embassy guard escorting the Right Rev John Brown, Bishop of Cyprus and the Gulf, after his meeting with top Muslim leaders in west Beirut yesterday as part of the latest efforts to win the release of three British hostages in Lebanon.

Escorted throughout by armed bodyguards, the bishop crossed from Christian east Beirut to the Muslim west accompanied by the British Ambassador, Mr Allan Ramsay (Reuters reports).

Diplomatic sources said Bishop Brown saw Mohammed Mehdi Shamseddine, the top Shia official, and Sheikh Hassan Khaled, Mufti of the Sunni Muslims.

The bishop, who is representing the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, arrived in east Beirut on Sunday and said he was optimistic about an imminent release of the three Britons.

Asked yesterday whether he expected the release of Mr Terry Waite, Bishop Brown told a television news agency: "I

have no idea about that. I have no knowledge on the release of Waite."

Bomb blast: A car bomb exploded in the Syrian-controlled town of Chataura in east Lebanon's Bekaa Valley yesterday, wounding at least five people, police said.

They said the Volvo, laden with explosives, blew up at 12.55 pm local time in front of a bank in the crowded central area. Ambulances and civil defence volunteers went to the scene to evacuate casualties.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Moscow accused over bombers

Washington (Reuters) — The US State Department yesterday accused the Soviet Union of breaching the Geneva peace accords on Afghanistan by sending bombers from Soviet territory to attack targets near the city of Kunduz.

It said: "It is clear that Soviet bombers have been involved. In our view, this is a violation of the Geneva accords."

The State Department spokeswoman, Phyllis Oakley, told a press conference that there were reports that fighting between Afghan insurgents and Government troops around Kunduz, in northern Afghanistan, was continuing and that the city was under aerial bombardment.

The Afghan troops have been reinforced by members of the Soviet forces who have yet to be withdrawn from Afghanistan. Ms Oakley said: "Some, but not all (the bombers), have come from airfields within the Soviet Union. In our view, this is a violation. We will raise it with the appropriate body." She was referring to the United Nations observer group set up to monitor the Geneva accords.

Soviet Katyn shrine

Moscow — An official Polish delegation is to lay wreaths today at a memorial being built by the Soviet Union to mark the Katyn massacre on September 17, 1939, of 15,000 Polish officer prisoners, Mr Gennady Gerasimov, the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman, said yesterday.

The ceremony appears to indicate that Moscow is prepared to acknowledge responsibility for the massacre near Smolensk. But Mr Gerasimov said "there's no answer yet" on the Soviet role in the killings, because a Soviet/Polish commission on the problem has not yet completed its work.

SPD 'on way back'

Münster — In the year of its 125th anniversary, West Germany's Social Democratic Party feels itself on the way back to the power it lost six years ago (Tony Catterall writes).

Herr Hans-Jochen Vogel, the party chairman, told the party congress the Government was in a desolate situation. Not only "the packaging is bad — no, the goods themselves are rotten. The entire political production process and management are no good". That had helped in the SPD's polls showing, at 43 per cent they are three points ahead of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democratic Union.

Israel lifts curfews

Jerusalem (Reuters) — The Israeli Defence Force yesterday lifted West Bank curfews imposed on Thursday on 10,000 people in Nablus, Tulkarm and three Palestinian refugee camps, while Palestinians in the occupied territories observed a general strike in support of deported Arab activists.

"It is not rule that we do this," a spokesman said. "There is no connection between the general strike and the curfews. They were imposed after riots and are being lifted because the area is quiet now." The curfew on Bani Naim village, near Hebron, was maintained.

TV debates planned

Washington — Aides to Vice-President George Bush and Governor Michael Dukakis began critical negotiations yesterday on nationally televised debates in the presidential race (Christopher Thomas writes). The Democrats want at least three debates between the candidates, and at least one between Senator Lloyd Bentsen, their vice-presidential contender, and Senator Dan Quayle, his Republican rival.

The Bush camp is not interested in debates before September 20, prompting an accusation that the Vice-President was trying to duck out of the confrontations.

Millions homeless in wake of rapid monsoon flooding

From Ahmed Fazi, Dhaka

Rahima Khatoun draped the body of her four-year-old daughter in a rag and sent it floating on a bamboo raft yesterday as monsoon floods ravaging northern and central Bangladesh left no dry patch of land for burial in her village, Shibhalaya, 35 miles west of Dhaka.

Mrs Khatoun's village is one of the 20,000 submerged by a continuous surge of water.

Official figures released yesterday said about 20 million people, almost a fifth of the country's population, had been displaced by the floods in 31 districts. There is knee-deep water in nearly 35 towns.

The unofficial death toll in the floods over the past 12 days exceeded 300 as newspapers reported 70 more deaths due to drowning, snake bites and intestinal diseases.

The Government said more than half a million homes had been destroyed and thousands of families were camping out on embankments and elevated railway tracks, reviving memories of the 1987 deluge

which swept through the country killing 2055 people and was the worst in 70 years.

Mr Paul Crowe, deputy director of the Irish charity Concern in Bangladesh, said: "Not all the country is affected as badly as last year, but the water is rising much more rapidly this time."

He said yesterday that hundreds of families were living on roofs in Zinzira township outside Dhaka where Concern runs a community project.

"We have moved 230 families to a school in the village of Bhawanatek (five miles north of Dhaka) but they must be evacuated because the school is now under water," he said. "If water continues to rise at the present rate the outlook is bleak."

His worries are shared by Agriculture Ministry officials who have estimated that rice crops on two million acres have been destroyed raising the spectre of shortages over an annual deficit of two million tons.

"We have an emergency recovery plan on hand, but when a major harvest gets

spoilt things can get rough," a senior official said.

President Ershad called the situation alarming. He has sent troops to help civilian volunteers on mechanized boats and canoes to rescue people marooned in isolated villages.

General Ershad yesterday warned off opposition demands for declaring the affected zones of the country as disaster areas, and assured the nation that about 1.5 million tonnes of foodgrains were in government warehouses.

As he spoke large swathes of water continued to keep at least 15 northern and north-eastern districts isolated from the rest of the country with more than 14,000 miles of highways damaged and over 500 culverts broken down.

Delhi (AFP) — Monsoon floods have killed more than 800 people across India, and are now spreading to fresh areas in three states.

Soldiers in Assam have evacuated some 15,000 people from their flooded homes in Guwahati city, the former state capital, to safe ground.

Burns specialists in effort to save the air show victims

From John England, Ludwigshafen

Doctors at a special burns and plastic surgery unit here were trying yesterday to save 10 critically injured victims of the Ramstein air show disaster who were showered with blazing fuel from a crashing aircraft.

Four other people who suffered serious burns at the US air base on Sunday died overnight, bringing the official death toll to 47. Another 344 of the injured were yesterday still in a total of 21 hospitals. Many were also reported to be in a critical condition.

Professor Rolf Zellner, chief surgeon at the burns unit, is treating 27 Ramstein patients. "They have varying degrees of burns everywhere," he said. "But many of them were hit in the face and hands, which will bear permanent scars."

His 10 critically injured patients include two girls, aged six and 11. He said: "Because the worst-burned patients are young, I give them a chance of surviving. But I would not put that better than 50-50 at present."

The professor — who studied in London, and treated

Austrian racing driver Nikki Lauda after his fiery crash in 1976 — said: "Some of the patients are still in a semi-shocked state and, fortunately for most of them, don't yet realize what has happened to them. They are also being given mild tranquilisers. A staff psychologist is also making

regular rounds, talking to those patients who can converse a little. The two girls cannot speak because they are on ventilators."

Plans for King Juan Carlos of Spain to watch aerobatics displays at Zaragoza air base on September 17 by teams including the Freccia Tricolori unit involved in the Ramstein disaster are being reconsidered. The Danish Air Force was suspended yesterday from taking part in air displays attended by spectators.

ing regular rounds, talking to those patients who can converse a little. The two girls cannot speak because they are on ventilators."

Prof Zellner added: "There are bound to be psychological problems with many of the patients later on. The real tragedy of what has happened to their lives will take months to sink in. We can reconstruct

faces and hands, and surgically do an excellent job. But the triumph of plastic surgery is not 100 per cent.

"Some of our former patients have come to us, shown us photographs of themselves before being burned, and cried 'that is not me!'. It is sad, but true, that they have also suffered a loss of identity."

At the municipal hospital in Kaiserslautern, near Ramstein, Professor Werner Overbeck, the chief surgeon, was still treating about 30 patients out of more than 100 admitted on Sunday. One was a Briton named as Mark Sand of Chichester, Sussex, who has been discharged.

Frau Gabi Schellhammer, a leading member of the Kaiserslautern Greens party, said she expected many local inhabitants to attend a vigil at the town hall to protest against military air shows and low-level training flights.

An official memorial service originally planned for tomorrow, was yesterday postponed until Saturday because of problems in identifying the victims.

Famine hits refugees from south Sudan conflict

From Catherine Bennett, Khartoum

Reports that hundreds of displaced southerners are dying weekly in south Kordofan yesterday had little impact in the Sudanese Parliament, which embarked instead on a placid debate on the handling of Khartoum's flood relief.

Even the Information Minister, Mr Abdullah Muhammad Ahmed, said he was unaware of the "details" about the fatalities, which have been estimated in one area at 280 a week. He did not agree that any aid should therefore be diverted to the south from Khartoum, where on Monday night relief agencies were already beginning to question how long food aid should be distributed, with a further 20,000 tonnes of food already on its way.

"There are a large number who can be dying here," the minister said. "They need food and they need care."

Aid agencies working in the

towns of Babanussa, Al Muglad and Meiram, in a corridor which runs from the southern Sudan province of Dahr el-Ghazal up to Khartoum, are alarmed that although food is available from Western donors there have been scarcely any trains running in the last two months to transport it to towns swollen by thousands of refugees from the south.

Mr Ahmed blames the delays to trains which should run weekly on the Sudanese People's Liberation Army, fighting a guerrilla war in southern Sudan. "The other party attacks civilian trains and trucks," he said. "Even in the north they attack." Last year they attacked a train from Babanussa to Wau.

Relief workers might reply that the state of the displaced southerners merits a different attitude. A spokesman for Médecins sans Frontières, the

British relief agencies are planning to redirect funds raised during Sudan's floods to help tens of thousands of refugees fleeing from fighting in the south and who are now on the brink of starvation (Nicholas Beeston writes). The famine is worse in some areas than the Ethiopian famine of 1985.

Relief workers said yesterday that food was urgently needed Kordofan and Darfur provinces, home to up to 100,000 refugees. Some of the \$4.14 million raised for the Sudanese Emergency Appeal will be sent to aid agencies already established in the region. Food air drops were also being considered.

French group, said that the mortality rate, estimated at 1 per cent in the last report coming from Meiram, was unmatched in its experience. In percentage terms by day or by week, these figures exceed any MSF has ever collated anywhere in the world. Before that the highest previously known were those in Korea in Ethiopia, in 1984 and '85," the spokesman said.

Relief workers were first alerted to the rising number of starving displaced people arriving in south Kordofan in May, when a survey conducted

by Action Internationale Contre la Faim discovered a dire situation among southerners who had left their homes around war-torn towns such as Wau and Aweil, and started walking to Meiram hoping to join the railway line to Khartoum.

When they found no trains were running some walked on to Al Muglad and Babanussa to pick up a truck or train. In June around 4,000 were en-camped around Meiram where conditions were described as catastrophic, while Abyei, another focus for the dis-

placed, was said to be "horrendous". Médecins Sans Frontières sent out a team and discovered that the flow of southerners was still increasing despite the rains. "Women and children were arriving completely naked," said a relief worker. "I have never seen a population so weak, quite evidently the remains of those who had not died along the way. I remember one family who arrived and sat down and died."

Many of the Dinka men had already fled to Ethiopia in the spring, fearing that if they moved north through Sudan they would be targets for the Army and Arab militias.

By August 4, when the latest report reached Khartoum from French workers in Meiram, the town's displaced population had reached 26,000 and between 35 and 40 were said to be dying each day.

Last week Mr Aengus Fincaane, director of the Irish

charity Concern, visited the town of Babanussa and Muglad where around 4,500 refugees have settled, having walked a further five days along the railway line.

"We saw people arriving in Muglad in a totally exhausted condition having walked from Abyei," he said. "They had no food and they spoke of perhaps a hundred a day dying in Abyei."

Even when they arrived the people were subject to disease and he saw one family lose three children to measles in two days, and another child eight days later.

Although relief workers had expected the rain to interrupt the procession moving north and had laid in stocks for the rainy season, the displaced families continued their journeys in unforeseen numbers and the figures of the displaced in Muglad has risen from 70 in June to 2,800 now in the camp, with seven or eight now dying each day.

Unrest in East Europe

Warsaw prepared at last to arrange talks with Walesa

From Richard Bassett, Warsaw

Solidarity, the East bloc's first independent trade union, celebrates its eighth anniversary today amid signs that the Polish Government is finally prepared to hold talks with Mr Lech Walesa, leader of the outlawed union.

Since the imposition of martial law the authorities have pretended that Solidarity did not exist. But yesterday the government spokesman, Mr Jerzy Urban, mentioned Mr Walesa by name and said that "round table talks" could include him.

The offer of talks was made last Friday by General Czeslaw Kiszczak, with the authorities anxious to end the two weeks of strikes in the country but wary — until yesterday — of involving Solidarity.

The strikers are demanding pay rises and legalization of Solidarity, which was banned in 1981.

"Mr Walesa can sit down at the round table. It is not important for us where someone comes from but what their present position is," Mr Urban said, adding: "If Mr Walesa stops his strike in the Lenin Shipyard in Gdansk, the round table talks will be convened automatically." But

it remained uncertain what form such talks would take and who the principal participants would be.

It was also uncertain whether Mr Walesa would be prepared to stop the strikes which have brought the birthplace of Solidarity to a halt.

But some union activists see the Government's about-turn over Mr Walesa as a ruse to end the strikes at the Lenin Shipyard, the Manifest Lipowcy colliery in Silesia, and by port workers at the north-west town of Szczecin, without granting any real long-term concessions.

Moreover, Mr Urban's emphasis that anyone respecting the Constitution would be able to take part in the talks was seen as a reminder of government charges that illegal Solidarity is not compatible with the Constitution.

Late on Monday Mr Walesa reiterated his view that, though he welcomed the idea of talks without preconditions, he would not take part in any discussions which did not "involve the problem of Solidarity".

The Government, by its latest statement, has shown that it is reluctant to use force

to break the strikes. But for his part, Mr Walesa may be tempted to lead his strikers out of the Lenin yard today, on the anniversary of Solidarity's founding Gdansk agreement, confident that he has won a big government concession.

While General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Polish leader, and his ministers hope Mr Walesa will seize the opportunity of today's symbolic anniversary, there are many in Solidarity who will counsel caution.

So far the Government, though vaguely talking about the need for "consensus" and a "constructive opposition", is offering no guarantees that it is prepared to allow any significant trade union pluralism to develop in Poland.

But if the talks defuse the strikes while at the same time drawing the sting from Mr Walesa's bargaining position, the Solidarity leader will have thrown away an important tactical advantage.

The ball is now firmly in the opposition's court, and the people of Poland will be anxiously awaiting today's news from Gdansk.

Letters, page 11

Pinochet likely as junta nominee for President



President Pinochet, who is expected to be chosen by the military junta as sole presidential candidate in the October plebiscite, making a public appearance in Santiago, Chile's capital.

Rush to sign up for Chile vote

From Lake Sagaris, Santiago

Chileans in their thousands crowded into voter-registration offices at the last minute yesterday as the four-man military junta met to choose the candidate it will put forward for President in the plebiscite early in October.

Despite the lack of alternatives (the junta's appointee will be the sole candidate), record numbers of Chileans have registered to vote, urged on by a united front of opposition political parties.

By yesterday, 7.3 million of a potential 8.2 million voters had signed, and observers believe the total could reach 7.5 million by the time the polls close tomorrow.

For the past year, opposition and pro-government forces alike have assumed that the four-man junta will nominate the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, General Augusto Pinochet, who attended the junta meeting on behalf of the Army.

General Pinochet, who has always presented himself as a reluctant participant in the 1973 coup which ended a century of Chilean democracy, has successfully applied military principles to the political arena, consolidating his position first as "temporary" president of the junta, immediately after the coup, and later as the virtually permanent President of Chile.

He is already Chile's longest-serving President and may

rule until 1997 if he wins the plebiscite.

Since the beginning of this year, Chilean opposition parties have been campaigning for the rejection of the junta's candidate.

In the light of recent polls conducted by the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences, Señor Manuel Antonio Garretón, a sociologist, on Monday predicted that General Pinochet will lose the plebiscite by at least 10 points.

A special poll commissioned by *Andalucía*, the opposition magazine, indicated that 18.8 per cent of voters would support and 44.9 per cent would oppose General Pinochet.

Most polls, however, indicate that there are still many undecided voters. In the *Andalucía* poll, when the "undecided" were asked if they really did not know how they would vote, more than half said they had decided but did not wish to comment.

Polling results by three other research groups indicated as many as two-thirds of Santiago voters would vote against General Pinochet's continued presidency, but opposition leaders have long warned that the plebiscite result might not reflect the wishes of the voters.

Of those polled by *Andalucía*, 44 per cent believed there would be electoral fraud, versus 34.8 per cent who thought the plebiscite would be fair.

Countdown to 1992

Europe sees tit-for-tat on trade

From Michael Dynes, Brussels

The European Commission would use the promise of access to its 320 million consumers to bargain for reciprocal concessions from trading partners after 1992.

Mr Willy de Clercq, the European Commissioner for External Relations, said yesterday.

Mr de Clercq made one of his most aggressive statements to date on the nature of the Community's relations with its main trading partners at a conference in the mountain resort of Alpbach, Austria.

He said that, for example, the Commission was dismantling all barriers to trade in financial services between its 12 components.

The move is expected to save the financial services sector an estimated £14.3 billion and to open up big opportunities for European companies providing banking, consumer credit, insurance, and other financial services throughout the Community.

But access to the European market would be restricted to only those non-European financial service companies whose home countries grant similar privileges in their own domestic markets to European

companies, the Commission said.

"Our view is that Community credit institutions should have equal access to the financial markets of non-European countries. The Commission will check on a case by case basis whether similar institutions from all member states are given the same treatment in the non-Community country concerned. If not, the authorization procedure will be suspended until we have ensured reciprocity," he said.

But the Commission's attempt to obtain reciprocal treatment in the financial

services sector have already drawn heavy fire from United States authorities, who say European financial institutions cannot be given access to the American continental market without a complete overhaul of US interstate banking law.

The US Administration has been insisting that the principle of "home country control", whereby foreign companies are governed by the same laws regulating domestic companies, is a more appropriate way of regulating foreign activities.

Many observers fear that the rigorous implementation

of reciprocity is likely to invite retaliation in the form of a new wave of Transatlantic trade wars, which could cast a shadow over the future of London, the world's leading centre of international finance and investment.

Mr de Clercq said that the completion of the internal market would also entail the abolition of national import quotas towards third countries, principally from the Far East, the Soviet Union and East Europe, and their replacement with Community-wide quotas as part of the creation of the EEC's common commercial policy.

But he tried to allay fears that this would lead to the formation of a giant industrial version of the common agricultural policy, which critics have already warned could result in the creation of a "Fortress Europe" and undermine the current round of trade liberalization talks being conducted by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Mr de Clercq said that protection generally would fall, but he would not rule out higher levels — if only temporarily — for cars and textiles.

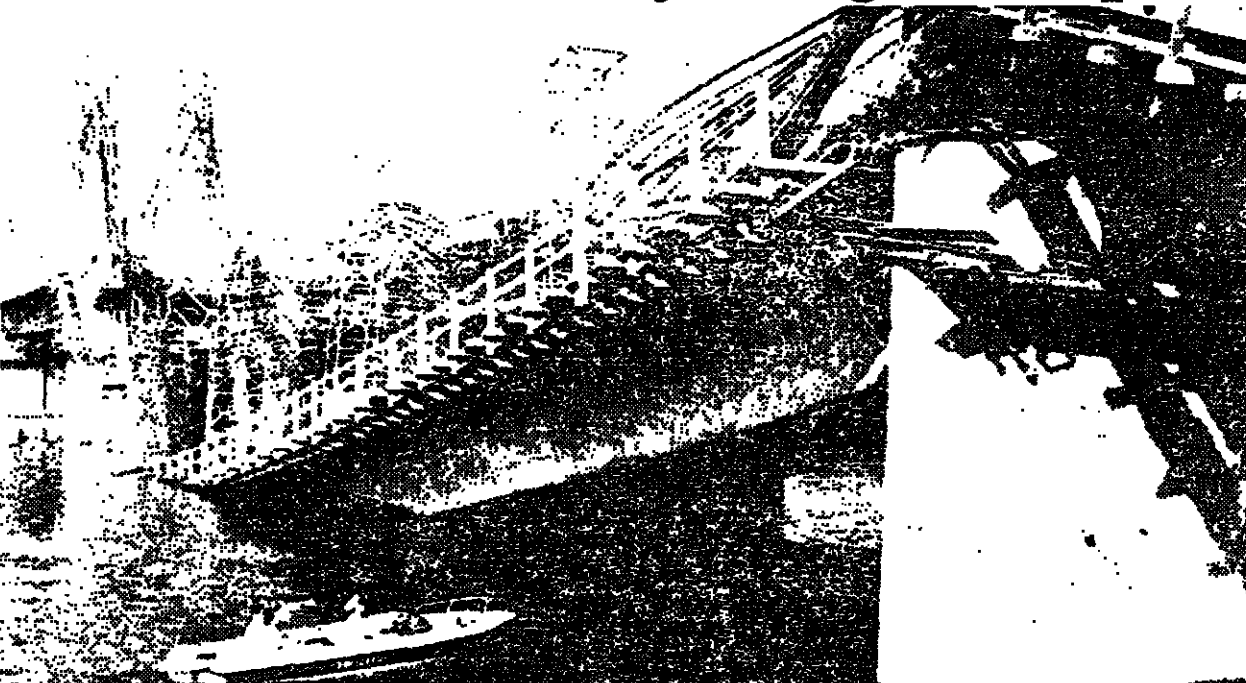
Plea for observer status

Brussels — East European trade union and human rights organizations have issued an unprecedented appeal to the European Parliament in Strasbourg (Michael Dynes writes).

The appeal was made during a four-day conference on human rights in the Polish city of Krakow, held at the height of the country's latest round of Labour unrest, in an attempt to increase ties between the two estranged halves of Europe. More than 1,000 union and human rights activists from Eastern Europe attended.

The appeal coincides with independent moves by the EEC and the Soviet-led trading organization, Comecon, to increase bilateral trade across the Iron Curtain, after the signing in Luxembourg two months ago of a declaration of mutual recognition.

German motorway bridge collapses



A West German police patrol boat inspecting an 80-yard section of motorway bridge which collapsed into the river Main yesterday. The bridge, about 20 miles south-east of Frankfurt, plunged into the river while construction was in progress, and seven workers were injured, some of them seriously. The cause of the collapse was not immediately clear.

Yugoslavia's time of trial

Fear of an autumn flare-up

From Dossa Trevisan, Belgrade

Yugoslavia is bracing itself for a turbulent autumn of flagging production and wages, soaring inflation and ethnic tension.

Mr Stefan Korosec, the secretary of the Yugoslav Communist Party's Praesidium, has told a meeting of regional officials that the country is heading for a general strike.

Ethnic friction and growing nationalism, especially in the troubled Kosovo region — where Serbian minority protest marches against the majority ethnic Albanians are becoming more belligerent — represented "a latent danger of explosion".

Inflation is nearing 200 per cent. Production, instead of rising by a planned 2 per cent, has fallen by almost as much. Business losses have multiplied, while the real value of wages has fallen by 8 per cent.

One high-ranking Yugoslav politician said recently that the country was perhaps facing its most difficult trial since

the Second World War. The wave of strikes provoked by the Federal Government's austerity programme, launched in early spring, brought thousands of workers to Belgrade to protest, some demanding higher pay and dismissal of politicians.

The summer holidays have brought a temporary lull to the troubled industrial and business fronts, but as the austerity programme is about to take effect, the Government is expecting increased social tension and pressures aimed at extracting concessions.

But Belgrade has warned that it will not yield. If the reforms are stopped because of social repercussions, they are bound to put the Yugoslav federal system, with its distinctive regionalism and relatively liberal economic approach, in jeopardy.

The constitutional changes which should take effect later this year are inflaming ethnic differences and suspicions.

The Serbian leadership sees in greater centralization a guarantee that the security of the Serbian population in Kosovo, now reduced to fewer than 200,000 and continuing to decrease through emigration, would be safeguarded.

The Serbs claim that all their ills stem from the Constitution. However, the rest of the country believes the Serbs are attempting to dominate not only the province, but also the whole nation.

● KUMANOVO: Nine policemen were injured — one when he was hit with a picture of Tito — in clashes with ethnic Albanian demonstrators in this Macedonian town on Monday, police officials said yesterday (Reuter reports).

They said 200 ethnic Albanians took to the streets demanding schooling in their own language. They threw stones at the police and damaged several cars.

Drivers fume as central Milan becomes a no-go zone

From Roger Boyes, Rome

If there is life in the fast lane in Italy, it is not to be found on the autostradas, where the upper speed limit is now 110 km (66 miles) an hour, crippling the Ferraris and Maseratis.

Rather, it exists in Milan, the northern power house where otherwise normal people gulp their lunches, snap on the telephone, and produce 28 per cent of Italian national income.

However, the city fathers have decided that the time has come for more haste, less speed. From this week traffic has been banned from the centre during working hours.

The crazy parking, sometimes three cars abreast, and a daily time-wasting fight to find space, have

prompted the authorities to erect 14 barricades around the city centre.

The effect is of crossing into East Berlin, but the Wall is more porous in Milan. About 36,000 cars have been given a permit, and one in three cars that approached the barricades yesterday was allowed through.

The ban extends to all cars with Lombardy or Milan number plates; vehicles from out of town, Rome or Genoa, usually get into the centre, which includes not only commercially important buildings such as the Stock Exchange but also La Scala Opera House and the cathedral.

The most irritating aspect of the ban is that it is also impossible to cross the city, and forces drivers to make a detour of several hours.

Further restrictions come into

effect in the middle of next month. Then cars will be permitted into the centre only if it can be demonstrated that they have guaranteed garage space.

Companies based in the centre which have parking allotments have a few hundred permits at their disposal. Daily tickets, costing about £1.50, will also be sold at newspaper kiosks to allow drivers to carry out urgent errands for an hour or so.

There were some fierce criticisms of this loophole from environmentalists and the traffic police, who fear that too many exceptions are being made already.

The Milanese say they are being taxed to enter their own city.

Dr Augusto Castagna, the traffic planner of Milan, responds fiercely: "What do you mean by a

tax on the centre? This ticket is for people who have an occasional or urgent need to go to the centre. It is not a tax — it represents the price of one hour in the garage."

Even before the latest crackdown, it was pretty tough in Milan. Signs would read "Non pensare neanche di parcheggiare qui" — don't even think of parking here.

The vulnerable rich have been consulting even wealthier psychiatrists suffering from a Milanese syndrome known as the *crisi di parcheggio*. The syndrome is a classic frustration aggression psychosis that results from the inability to find a parking space.

The iron law in Milan is that parking spaces disappear in proportion to the needs of the parker.

Milan is the first leading

commercial city to undertake such a drastic step. Florence has banned traffic from the centre since February, creating a "blue zone" guarded by some 300 vigilantes, most of them teenagers who re-direct traffic.

Rome also bans traffic, between set hours, from the historic centre. But whereas the Florentines enforce their rules strictly, the Romans treat the ban as just another challenge to be circumvented with gifts of chocolates, special permits (suddenly the centre seems to be full of doctors — yesterday I saw an 18-year-old "doctor" get out of a low-slung sports car, presumably a child prodigy) or, if all else fails, bluster.

The main reason for the Florence and Rome traffic bans is pollution: the car fumes are eating into some

of civilization's most treasured monuments. In Milan, not famous for its beauty, the motives are mixed, but mainly relate to money and squandered business time.

Too many hours are being lost on parking cars and towing away the illegally parked vehicles. No one pays the fines and the city is losing revenue.

The Milanese response to the new crackdown has been to create a huge black market.

The going rate yesterday for a permit on the black market was £350 and the price will soar when people return from holiday.

City centre garages and companies are quietly selling their surplus permits, and one church has even let it be known that it will give out passes in return for regular attendance and a "small donation".

Nato exercise

Nato forces begin extensive air and sea exercises today designed to test the allied defence of the North Atlantic. Teamwork 88 is the first such operation since the INF Treaty, signed this year, placed greater emphasis on conventional defence in Europe.

Auction row

Rennes (Reuter) — The Café Gondrée, in Benouville, the first house liberated from the Germans in the Second World War, is being auctioned despite protests by Normandy landing veterans who make pilgrimages there.

Fatal ambush

Lisbon (Reuter) — Unita rebels ambushed and killed seven Angolan missionaries and a child in the central province of Huambo, the official Angolan news agency reported.

Train blast

Islamabad (Reuter) — A bomb blast in the luggage van of the Khyber Mail train killed three Pakistanis and injured 13 near Islamabad. Secret agents of the Soviet-backed Afghan Government were blamed.

Drug deaths

Barcelona (Reuter) — At least 41 people have died of drug overdoses in the past two months here after injecting themselves with unusually pure heroin.

Hirohito well

Tokyo — Emperor Hirohito, aged 87, was said by medical advisers to be in good shape but suffering from a cold, according to his medical advisers.

Aids victims

Nairobi (Reuter) — Kenyan Aids cases in the first half of 1988 numbered 1,235, near the combined total for the preceding four years, the Government said.

Family shot

Delhi (AFP) — Sikh militants stormed a village and shot dead five members of one family in the northern Indian state of Punjab.

Fever toll

Lagos (AP) — A yellow fever epidemic has claimed at least 20 lives in the northern state of Niger. Most of the dead are children.

SPECTRUM

Challenger tests the waters

Off the coast of Yorkshire, a research vessel is measuring the pollution of the waters lapping at Britain's doorstep.

Andrew Lycett went to talk to the scientists of the North Sea Project

The North Sea is a murky pond, as the search for the cause of a disease which has laid waste to seal populations has highlighted. Into it we pour our industrial waste, our sewage sludge, oil, fertilizers and yet more waste incinerated on special ships.

Now another special vessel, the 1,050-ton Royal Research Ship Challenger, is at sea with the task of finding out just how foul are the waters which lap, figuratively, at the nation's doorstep.

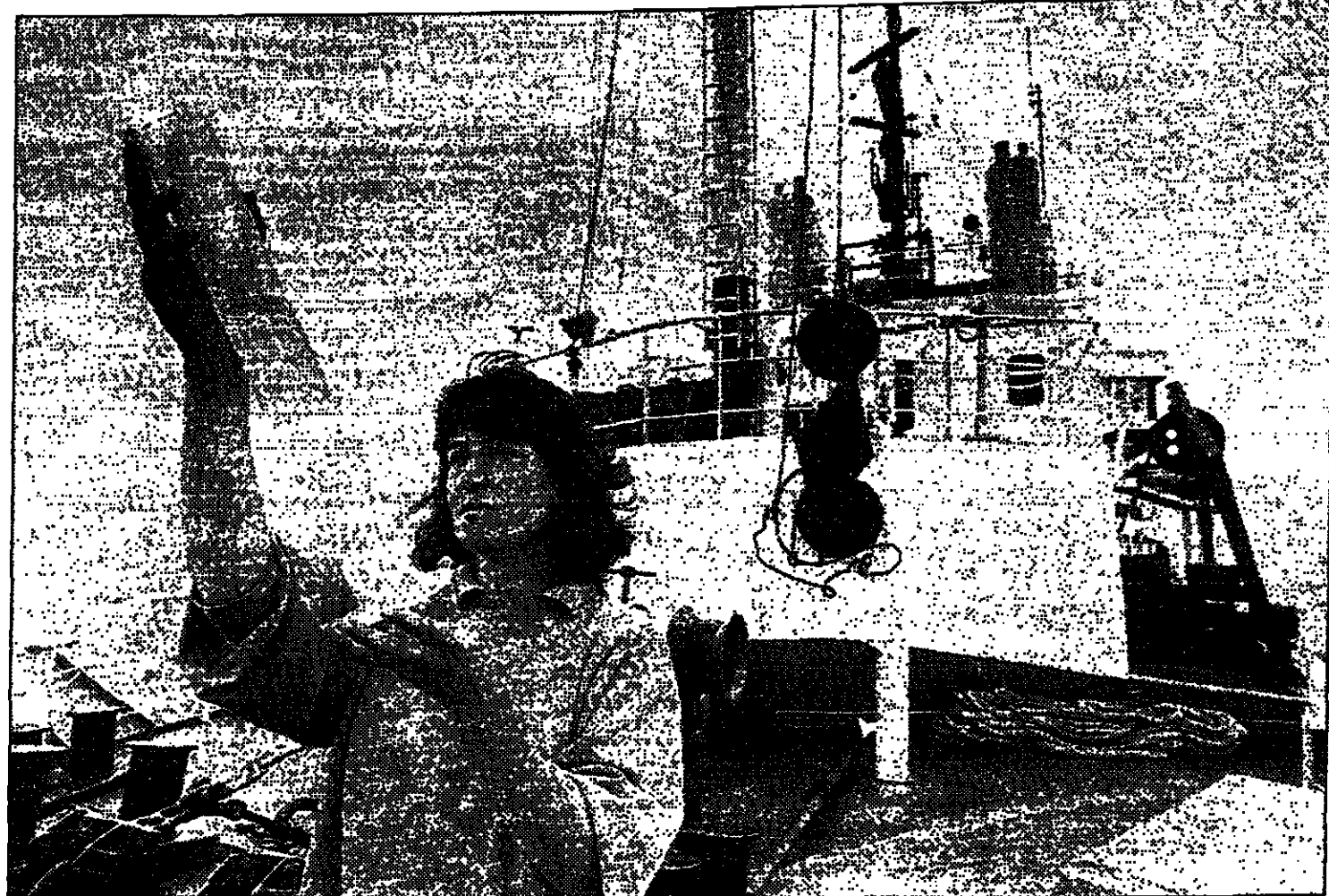
The Challenger sports a black hull, yellow twin funnels, and garish green and red on-deck cranes. Three miles into the North Sea, off the coast of Whitby, she looks a cross between pirate vessel and boat-lake tub. On the bridge, Captain Philip Warne recalls how an earlier marine research ship he commanded, the Shackleton, was fired upon by the Argentines off the Falklands in February 1976. The nearest the Challenger will get to that excitement is the video *Falklands Task Force South*, beside the VCR in the ship's bar (officers and scientific staff only). Underneath a print of Constable's *Haywain*, the ship's Chief Scientific Officer, Professor John Simpson, of the University of North Wales, enthuses about a voyage which has been 10 years in the planning. For the first time the disparate disciplines in marine science, including physics, chemistry, biologists and geologists, are coming together in a five-year research effort, designed to determine definitively how the North Sea "works".

Simpson stresses: "We're not the fire brigade. We won't give an immediate verdict on how much pollution effects the seal population. But we are hoping to provide a framework for predicting all potential pollutants." He maintains a careful scientific objectivity. But at times his feelings, backed by a lifetime of research, have a habit of emerging. Al-

though the North Sea Project is technically part of a co-ordinated European initiative (West Germany and Holland are also contributing), Simpson says Britain scores "very low on the level of caring governments. Our tendency is to say there isn't a problem, to try to make the whole thing go away." Letting his guard slip a little more, he adds: "It is when and how remedial action should be taken, rather than if. There is an argument for stopping discharges into the North Sea now." But this option would cost £800 million. So, fearing his research project effort may be viewed as "a substitute for action", Simpson and his team first have to collect the scientific data.

He says Britain has invested more resources in deep-sea than in shelf-sea (as in Continental Shelf) oceanography. He used to study what he calls blue seas. Then he realized how little was being done on the Cinderella of oceanography. Shelf-seas are those up to 200 metres in depth, in other words, all of the seas round Britain, including the North Sea. "We get our fish and oil and gas from them. We use them as an amenity for sailing and swimming. And, most important, we use them as a waste disposal system." And yet we know very little about the damage we might be doing to them. Simpson is clear, however, that "there is strong evidence that our use of the North Sea threatens its long-term health".

The Challenger project is hardly the \$1 billion international campaign called for by Sir Richard Body, Conservative MP for Holland with Boston, to combat North Sea pollution. But the £10m North Sea Project will make it clear what is happening around our coasts. Managed by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), it brings together about 100 scientists from 14 research institutes, including 10 universities. For 15 months, start-



Seeking a clearer view: analyst Carolyn Symon, on board the RRS Challenger, examines a sample of water taken from the North Sea

'Fish, oil and gas come from this sea, yet we know little about damage we may do'

ing four weeks ago, the Challenger will be playing for 14 days a month a regular 2,000-mile course around the southern area of the North Sea. The area off Scotland is ignored — an inevitable result of inadequate resources, according to Simpson. The NERC is one of those government research bodies continually under threat of financial cuts. At the moment 160 jobs are in danger. Only this week it was announced that NERC's Deacon Laboratory of the Institute of Oceanographic Science in Wormley, Surrey, is to close. The laboratory specializes in wave research and its work on the physics of waves has assisted the engineers of North Sea oil platforms, saving an estimated

£1 billion in construction costs. On each 14-day voyage, the 12 Challenger scientists lower a series of contraptions into the water to obtain data on its physics, chemistry, biology and sedimentology. Samples are tested for trace metal, nutrient and biogenic trace gas. Simpson says: "It should be possible to get data on a whole range of pollutants." However, he admits that the project — again because of lack of resources — is unable to study some of the more complicated organic industrial chemicals, such as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Some scientists have suggested that it is these chemicals which are damaging the immune systems of seals, leaving them open to infection.

"We're having to concentrate on nutrients and some of the better behaved metals which do not have exotic chemistry," Simpson says. More sophisticated is the CTD (Conductivity, Temperature and Depth) measuring device, which transmits information back to the Challenger's computer room on such variables as surface temperature, fluorescence and dissolved oxygen. Dr Brian McCartney, head of the NERC's Proudman Oceanographic Laboratory at Birkenhead, which is managing the project, says: "Measures of pollution will show up in lack or abundance of dissolved oxygen."

On the other 14 days of every month, the Challenger's scientists

conduct more specific tests, such as what happens around the sandbanks which cover much of the North Sea, and how river estuaries — in this case the "plumes" of the Humber, Wash and Thames — disperse. These studies get to the core of the project's usefulness. "After our study," Simpson says, "we should be able to tell, if an industry wants to put more cadmium from its plant into the Tees, how much of that cadmium goes into the sediment, how much stays in the water, how far it moves from the shoreline, even how much cadmium should be deposited."

On its current voyage the Challenger is studying what are known as tidal mixing fronts, where

warmer and cooler areas of water come together. To test how pollutants would be dispersed on these fronts, Challenger drops its orange drift buoys which then transmit their positions to a satellite every three hours. "We leave them there and pick them up after a few days," Simpson says.

He produces a satellite picture showing a clear division between the colder water in the south and along the shores, which is light, and the warmer water in the North, which is dark. He says that the high band acts like a pipe. Through it radioactive waste deposited into the water off Windsale, on the Cumbria coast, is carried round the northern tip of Scotland into the North Sea.

Interesting effects happen at the frontal boundaries. Conditions are ideal for the concentration of the plankton which, some scientists say, has now reached dangerous levels, as nutrients from fertilizers run off fields, into the rivers and out to sea.

This has both negative and positive effects. Nitrates in the fertilizers stimulate the growth of plant plankton, which release sulphurous compounds into the atmosphere, contributing to the problem of acid rain. As blooms of plankton flourish, they produce toxins which can be tolerated by shellfish but are fatal to humans if ingested at their favourite seafood restaurant. On the other hand, plankton absorbs atmospheric carbon dioxide, caused partly by burning of fossil fuels. When it dies, it takes this gas temporarily out of the carbon cycle by locking it into sediments in the seabed in innocuous carbon deposits.

There is considerable overseas interest in these and other phenomena in shelf-seas. China's Yellow Sea, India's Bay of Bengal and Argentina's Patagonia Shelf are all "plumes", with characteristics similar to the strong tides of the North Sea. More than 10 per cent of all tidal energy in the world comes from the waters around Britain. But first the data has to be collected. "Britain could write the North Sea off as a dumping ground," Simpson says. "Or it could take the Greenpeace option and stop all discharge into the sea altogether. We believe there is a middle way of practical management. But we need to take it soon, and it must be based on true scientific understanding."

Exploding the world of architecture

It was inevitable that the reaction would come. For a decade since Philip Johnson slapped a Chipendale pediment on his AT & T skyscraper in midtown Manhattan and kicked off the post-Modernist boom, the architectural world has looked back and celebrated ornament and historical allusion. Rarely has a movement or style been so quickly absorbed by the commercial world. Easy and picturesque, post-Modernism was in tune with the unreflective Eighties, particularly Ronald Reagan's America. For years now a quota of plywood pediments, columns and arches has been de rigueur on every new shopping centre, airport terminal or even multi-storey car park.

The reaction predicted by

many was a retro-Modernism, a return to the International style, the clean-slab school of cool simplicity born of Le Corbusier and Mies van der Rohe that gave us the century's most enduring architectural idiom. It was, after all, the same Philip Johnson who as a young man helped anoint the International style with his landmark 1932 exhibition at New York's Museum of Modern Art. Now 82 years old and the elder statesman of American architecture, he has done it again. With "Deconstructivist Architecture", an iconoclastic exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art, he gathered seven like-thinking architects from Europe and America and helped launch the notion that confusion, crazy angles and jagged discord may be making its way

What does the future hold for a new building style that looks like a bomb in a chopstick factory?

into the design vocabulary of the *fin de siècle*.

As he did with his earlier trend-spotting efforts, Johnson has sparked an angry debate, though this time he denies that he is launching a movement.

According to Mark Wigley, the young co-curator, they have identified "a different sensibility, one in which the dream of pure form has been

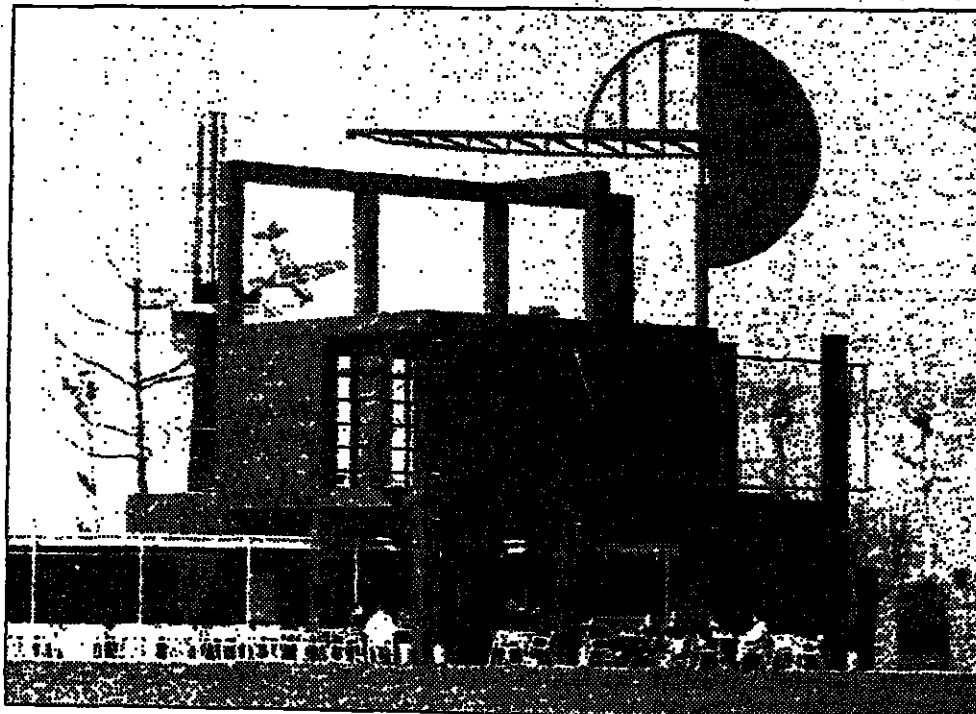
disturbed. Form has become contaminated. The dream has become a kind of nightmare."

Bizarre and disorienting, the Deconstructivist style, in as much as there is a common thread, delights in shattering the rules. Walls tilt, beams twist — the eye is shocked. It is as if someone tried to translate Escher's impossible drawings into space. Both the critics and the detractors — of whom there are many — find it hard even to pin down the style except to talk in metaphors from other media. "An explosion in a chopstick factory," says Paul Prejza, a Los Angeles designer. It is John Cage's dissonant and random music translated into building, says another. Michael Graves, an apostle of post-Modernism, calls it "slash-and-crash architecture". Reporting the Museum of Modern Art opening last month, *Newsweek* magazine said the style "prompts the most basic questions, starting with which end is up?"

In fact, for all the esoteric and implausible aspects of Deconstructivism, the public has been getting a taste of the new style for some time. Frank Gehry, an idiosyncratic architect who is the old man of the group, built his Santa Monica home, a conventional house that looks as if it had been dislocated, a decade ago. His Aerospace Museum in

downtown Los Angeles boasts a twisted facade that fits the Deconstructivist label. Gehry's work is currently being celebrated at a separate exhibition at New York's Whitney Museum.

And as many of the critics have been pointing out, the Deconstructivist label is just a new way of grouping a style that had already become known as the "AA Look", from London's Architectural Association. Back in 1983, the AA's Zaha Hadid jolted the architectural world with her prize-winning design for a hillside Hong Kong sports club. Her model and painting showing the tangle of exploded planes are attracting crowds at the Museum of Modern Art, along with the model for a splintered skyscraper in Hamburg by the Co-op Himmelblau of Vienna. With its strange futuristic form, it evokes both the dream architecture of science fiction fantasy and a nostalgia for the optimism of 1920s Russian avant-garde. A room full of paintings and models by the Russian Constructivists sets the scene for the New York exhibition. The new architects have taken their main motif — intersecting and colliding planes — from the Russians, as well, it seems, as the dominant red and black colours. To this, at least according to the people



Which end is up? Intersecting planes of Frank Gehry's Aerospace Museum in Los Angeles

who coined the name, they have injected the ideas of disintegration articulated by the recent French literary movement founded by Jacques Derrida, called Deconstruction.

But the young architects deny adherence to any school or particular theory. They say they arrived intuitively at the same approach and are just having fun with an anti-style, an approach that Johnson calls playing with "the pleasures of unease". Fun, however, may not be the most ob-

vious emotion evoked by these jagged structures.

The big question is whether the imprimatur of Johnson will propel Deconstructivism into the marketplace. What looks more likely is an adoption by the commercial world of a diluted form of the Deconstructivist vocabulary, but not whole-hearted absorption. It would be difficult to imagine any corporation going for a Manhattan headquarters that looked as though it had just been swept by Hurricane Charlie. As Paul Goldberger, a

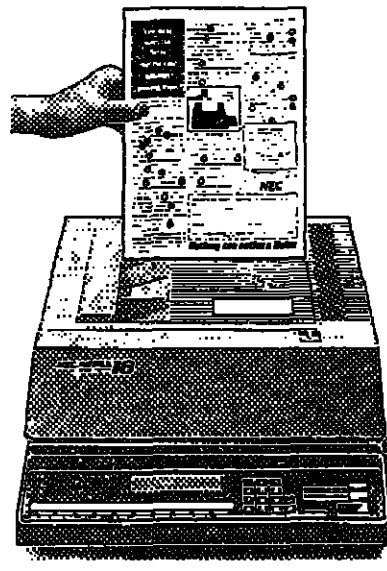
New York architecture critic, points out, Deconstructivism is less a movement than a subversive "correction in the architectural culture".

But you never know. The Deconstructivist approach is already making itself felt in interior design. Only a few blocks from the Museum of Modern Art, a trendy lighting shop is selling handsome table lamps with the tell-tale red and black grid of the Deconstructivist look.

Charles Bremner

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SCIENCE REPORT

Physics takes a chemistry lesson

The science of chemistry has a rather dusty air these days, lacking the glamour and popular appeal of particle physics or molecular biology. But, as an account in the current issue of the journal *Science* makes clear, modern chemists are concerned with much more than simply cataloguing what is produced when chemicals are mixed together. Using lasers and electronic instruments, they are trying to make snapshots of chemical reactions in progress, breaking down the almost instantaneous conversion of one molecule to another into a series of steps, each lasting as little as one ten-millionth of a second.

A molecule is a collection of atoms, the individual units of the chemical elements, held together in a certain way. When a chemical reaction occurs, the reacting molecules swap atoms or groups of atoms, and rearrange themselves differently.

In principle, some physicists are fond of saying, all such chemistry can be reduced to an application of quantum mechanics. Each atom has a tiny central nucleus surrounded by a

cloud of orbiting electrons. The reason that atoms stick together as molecules is because some of the electrons take up new orbits around two or more atoms, forming "bonds" between them. So because we know all the equations that determine how electrons behave, say the physicists, we can predict what orbits they will form, what molecules will be made, and what reactions between molecules will or will not occur.

The problem is that although the equations for electrons orbiting around a number of different atoms can be written down, they are far too complicated to be solved. So instead of physicists reducing all of chemistry to mere calculation, the chemists are using their specialized knowledge to begin to understand the nature of chemical bonds, and thus help physicists understand quantum mechanics better.

In this week's *Science*, Kevin Peters and Gary Snyder, of the University of Colorado, describe new laboratory techniques which allow chemists to observe some of the microscopic

changes that happen when one bond breaks and a new one forms. The particular kind of reaction they study is photoinduced — in other words, it is triggered by light. The substances they are investigating are mixed together in a solution and kept in the dark until a brief flash of laser light, lasting less than one thousand-millionth of a second, starts the reaction going.

When a bond between atoms breaks, a tiny amount of energy is given off. This release of heat makes the solution expand a little just in the vicinity of the reacting molecules, and the expansion pushes on the cooler liquid next to it and sets it moving. The net result is that a vibration — a sound wave — is set off, just as if the test tube had been very gently tapped. The experimenters can detect this sound wave with a very sensitive microphone, and its magnitude measures the amount of energy released.

Of course, after the complete reaction has finished, it is easy to measure the temperature of the whole solution, and find out how much heat

in total was given off. But in a complicated reaction there may be many bonds broken and many new ones formed, and measuring the final temperature change says nothing about any of these intermediate steps. With this new technique chemists can find how much energy is released in a single stage of the reaction, when one bond has broken but before any new ones have formed.

This modern kind of chemistry, whose goal is to find the exact sequence of events that constitutes a reaction between two molecules, should help quantum physicists in their efforts to "predict" the way molecules behave. But biologists, too, are looking in this direction: in the fight against Aids, for example, it is essential to know the precise sequence of interactions by which the complex molecules of the body's immune system respond to the equally complex molecules of invading viruses.

David Lindley

WEDNESDAY PAGE

And here are my house rules...OK?

The new extended family — mother, father, children and the nanny — raises new questions.

Should a nanny be Hilaire Gomer suggest allowed to entertain boy-some house rules to help friends while on duty? foster harmonious living



How do you curb a phonaholic? Is a nightclubbing nanny acceptable? Charlotte Breese and

Many new employers will wonder justifiably why taking on a nanny has to be so complicated and regimented. A large percentage of employing mothers are Sixties people with, probably, liberal ideas about their tolerance of other people's ideas and habits. Almost all employers start out that way; many do a swift volte-face and metamorphose into house rules devotees after the first few months.

To make your lives together work, it is essential that you think through as precisely as possible what your views are on the following: smoking, drinking, boyfriends, what you are called, use of the car, where in the house the nanny may go and what she may use without asking, when she may use the phone, who may stay and for how long, and the need for confidentiality on both sides.

There are instances when the nanny's discretion can matter very much to you, particularly if you are nearing the divorce courts, are rich, political or important in public life. In August 1987 Anne Diamond, the TV presenter, got an injunction granted to stop the press and silence her former nanny, on the basis that the nanny as an employee owed the couple a duty not to reveal confidential information acquired during the course of her job.

Fewer and fewer employers like their nanny to wear a uniform. But not surprisingly, the three big residential training colleges — Chiltern, Norland and Princess Christian — are proud of the identity that their uniform gives them, and the girls are encouraged to wear it if that suits the employer.

Ninety per cent of employers prefer non-smokers. A growing proportion are militant about it and will sack a nanny who lies about her habit.

Most people agree that nannies should not drink while on duty. Many employers, however, offer the nanny a drink at the end of a hard day and exchange news and views over it. Similarly, she shouldn't have to cope with drunk employers.

Almost all employers' stated aim is to make their house the nanny's home. However, when they think about what this actually means in terms of loss of privacy and peace, their list of exceptions is lengthy. Clear messages from the start about the way you want to live in

your home should help reduce future friction. Both parties need to learn respect for each other's "space" and to nurture a mutual, and entirely healthy, desire to be apart some of the time under the same roof.

Even the most open-minded of employers grumble ferociously about their nanny's abuse of the telephone. This is one area in which the employer may feel quite free to act as if she were the nanny's parent. Try to engender some guilt by telling her from the start that you don't want her to be extravagant with your phone. Show her the last phone bill and say that it is not expected to double in the next quarter. When it does, show her the new bill, jump up and down if it is your style, and threaten to make her pay the difference next time.

Naturally nannies need to be in touch with their families and this should be encouraged. Offer her a specific time to ring home each week. Most people now let the nanny use the car or the second car if there is one. It is expected that she ask before driving away and always give her employer priority and reasonable notice. Some mothers have a blanket rule that their nanny never drives the children, for safety reasons and peace of mind. Others make quite sure that she is a competent driver first. Any sensible parent lectures her on the absolute necessity of child safety seats, and of course her own.

If an enlightened employer is keen to have a long-stay happy nanny, allowing her to have friends to stay is a perk which shouldn't cost much or cause trouble as long as you lay down a few guidelines. A nanny's parents may be glad to spend a weekend in that house if you are away, so that they can have a look at the way their daughter lives and spend some time with her.

Most employers restrict a nanny's overnight visitors to "real girlfriends whom we know" and "members of her family". Employers are unanimous in discouraging weekend overnight visitors; requiring proper notice of anyone's arrival; and making it clear that any stay should be limited to a night or two only. They also evince a definite preference for female visitors.

With a responsible nanny who has a professional attitude to her job, the need to give instruction about when she is expected to be home at night does not arise. Many mothers are sure that their nanny or mother's help can cope after a night out and

don't have a curfew. Some are adamant about a strict curfew. A few actually worry until they know their nanny is safely tucked up in bed. Employers must not forget that their nannies are young with lots of energy.

A mother and her three-year-old daughter were admiring the farm animals in an idyllic Dorset valley one weekend. Reflectively the little girl remarked: "Billy the bull, mummy, what's he doing?" "Making babies, darling." "Is that what Kathy and Abdul were doing yesterday afternoon?" In this way one mother discovered how her child was being "cared for" while she was at work. On Monday evening the mother tackled the nanny and her boyfriend together. He agreed not to cross the threshold unless the mother was there. He was soon bored with the nanny, who attempted suicide while left in sole charge.

This may sound an incredible story. It did happen. It brings home the fact that a sensible, trained nanny (which this one was) may turn into an unrecognizable, love-lorn wreck within weeks once smitten. It is hard for an employer to deal with this area successfully; the truth is, as one nanny puts it: "If you are residential you really can't have an affair; men and nanning just don't mix."

The most important piece of advice to a new employer from a mass of experienced ones is: "Don't agonize over it." There is no solution that will suit everybody. But remind yourself that there is no other job which permits an employee to sit on her boyfriend's knee half the afternoon and get paid for it. Don't stand any nonsense on this one. Boyfriends are not allowed to accompany nannies in or out of the house while she is on duty.

How can you avoid the boyfriend problem? It is cynical and rather unkind to bank on your nanny limiting her life to your children or to hire her with this ulterior motive.

Unless employers and their friends are being super discreet, the instances of male employers jumping into bed with the nanny are too few to focus on for long. However, there are many instances of territorial and macho display. Apparently, husbands walk around the home intimidating all visitors with their dazzling boxer shorts and hairy pot

bellies. This can become in some cases harassment, although it does seem almost unconscious and nannies are very forgiving.

Infatuation may strike the nanny too. One father went upstairs to get a suitcase and was amazed to find in a cupboard a shrine to himself. His photograph was mounted and surrounded with lipstick kisses and buttercups, Indian beads and burnt joss sticks.

Apart from any moral view, it is not practical to keep someone in the house who tells lies or steals money or valuables. Honesty has to be a house rule for the protection

of your children. If a nanny can lie, fib, prevaricate, cheat or fudge about little things, even by omission, you do not know exactly what is going on. This is your right as an employer. A nanny should say what she does and do what she says.

The Good Nanny Guide by Charlotte Breese and Hilaire Gomer will be published on September 8 by Century (£6.95).

TOMORROW

Nanny as educator, entertainer, shrink — what will yours be?

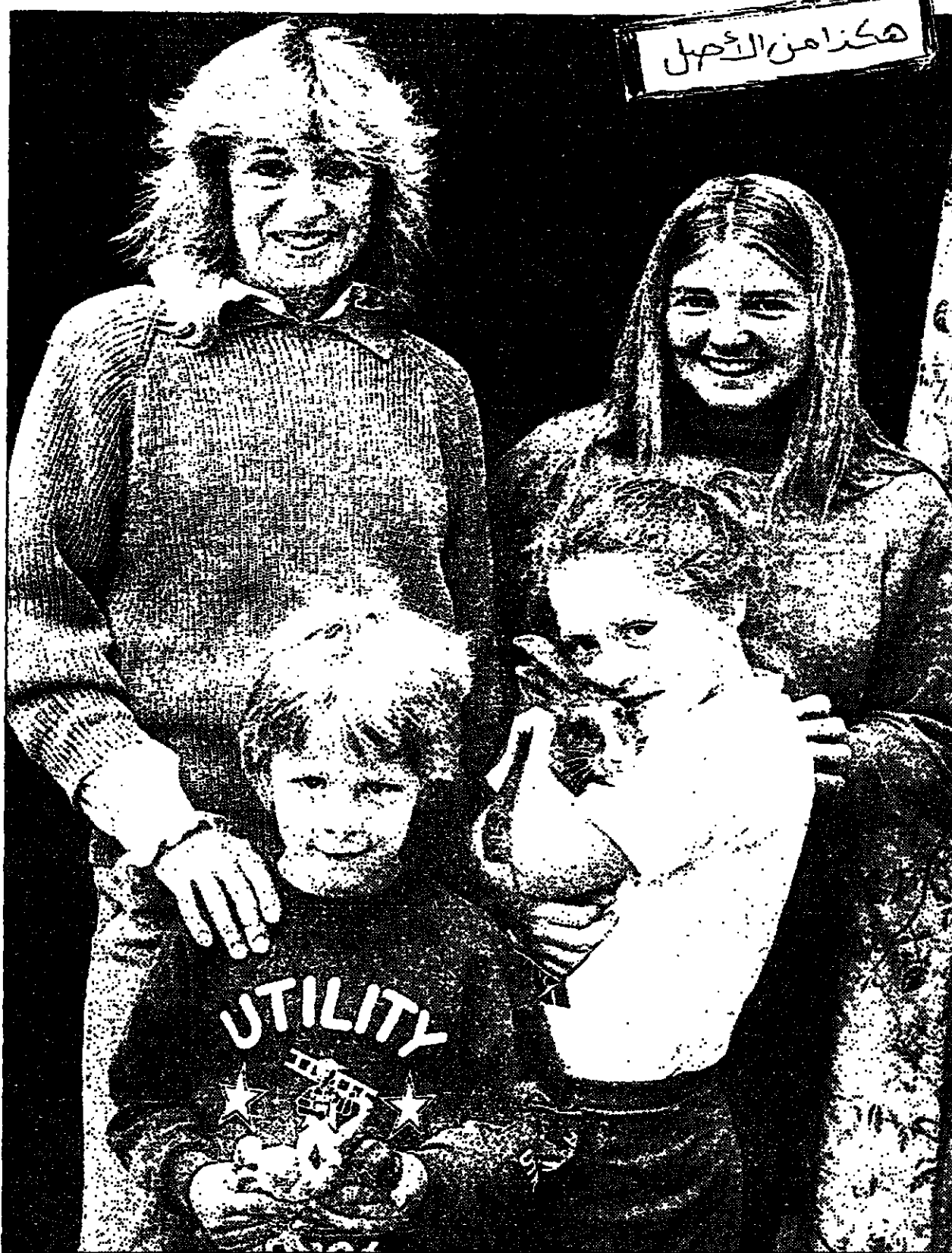
(£79 plus £2.50 p&p), or buy an electric footwarmer (£18.95 plus £2.95 p&p), or simply an elastic lace to make tying shoes a thing of the past (£1.90 post-free for two pairs). New to the impressive range of "ortho-care" gadgetry are Isotoner Sleep Gloves (£10.45 per pair, post-free) which promise relief from the pain, stiffness and swelling associated with arthritis in the hands. They are offered on a seven night free trial basis for the sceptical. Details and catalogue from Chester-care, 16 England's Lane, London NW3 4TG.

In good voice

A quote from Norman Lebrecht in *The Times* of July 1987, begins the brochure for the Opera Course: "The curtain falls this month on opera's most triumphant season in Britain, with music drama replacing straight theatre as the favourite entertainment of the 1980s." So successful was the first Opera Course that a second will be held this autumn. Viscount Norwich, consultant to the course, says it is advisable to book now as there are only 60 places available. Norwich will be one of the speakers (on *Simon Boccanegra*, October 13), together with Alan Sievwright

(*Turandot*, October 6). Desmond Shawe-Taylor, music critic of *The Sunday Times* since 1958 (*Falstaff*, October 20), Rodney Milnes, editor of *Opera* magazine (*Rigoletto*, October 27), Nigel Douglas ("Great singers of Puccini", November 3) and Geoffrey Wheatcroft (*Così fan tutte*, November 24). You can choose to attend four two-hour Thursday morning sessions for £135 or eight for £200 at the Minerva cinema in Knightsbridge, London, where coffee will be offered at 10.15am before a two-hour lecture begins at 10.45. Not everyone's cup of tea, perhaps, and not everyone can spare the time or the money (which could buy a couple of tickets to the real thing) — but stalwarts who can sit through the Ring Cycle should appreciate the November 10 lecture on *Das Rheingold* by Elise Mayer-Lismann, and have the enthusiasm left to shout bravissimo as Sir John Tooley winds up his stirring rendition of "My years at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden" (November 17). Brochures and details from Sally Wingham, 23 Cadogan Square, London SW1X 0HU (01-235 3264).

Victoria McKee



Helping with everything round the clock: Nicky Baring (left) with her nanny, Meredith, and children Simon and Sophie

THE BIG FOUR: PAY, TIME OFF, HOLIDAYS AND PERKS

● **Pay:** The well-worn cliché that if you pay peanuts you get monkeys is indubitably the case in the nanny market.

The new NNEB nanny will cost £65-plus all found in London, a bit less elsewhere. Experienced (ie, around two years in one or two jobs) NNEBs may earn £100 and above in London.

If you are taking a girl from one of the residential fee-paying colleges, expect to pay more. Even a Norland probationer commands a basic £75 per week. An experienced nanny from any of the above colleges (and experience means more than two years) earns in the range of £100 to £150 all found.

Daily nannies are expensive and you may have to spend extra on babysitters. A daily nanny will cost you £20 to £30 per day for about 10 hours every weekday.

Part-time nannies' rates are to be compared with those of the daily nanny. The family with whom she

lives and boards usually contribute less to her wages than the family whose child she also cares for. For looking after two children from separate families an experienced NNEB might expect £80 to £90, of which the host family might expect to pay £25 to £30.

There are three sorts of mother's helps: the untrained English girl, the Aussie or Kiwi, and other girls from overseas whose mother tongue is not English. The minimum wage for full-time foreign or English girls is £40 per week in London, but the older and more experienced English girl may make as much as a new NNEB, at which point she is called a nanny.

Aussies and Kiwis don't care much what they do, but must be paid a good wage. In 1988, this means a starting salary of £60-£70 a week.

Foreign au pairs are sometimes paid as little as £15 per week for well over the Home Office guidelines of 30

hours a week. In London, the going rate is £18 to £25 for 30 hours a week.

There are lots of reasons for raising your nanny's salary: the good rule is to do it often and as generously as you can afford.

● **Time on and time off:** Ninety per cent of employers reckon it is their job to deal with their children at night. In effect, many nannies spend most of their week on 24-hour duty.

Asking nannies to do more hours than were discussed and agreed at the interview is a common transgression by employers and one which causes a lot of resentment. You must be clear exactly what you want your nanny to do from the beginning.

Nannies who are in sole charge during the week expect every weekend off. Increasingly the trend is towards the nanny's job becoming a five-day-week affair. This trend is supported by the rising numbers of working mothers who want to look after their children

'I say right from the start that I want someone 24 hours a day'

A high turnover is the price Nicky Baring from Hampshire finds she has to pay for the right nanny. She has had a series of temporary girls mainly from Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. "I did have two superb girls from Yorkshire. I find their attitude better than southern girls. I say right from the start that I want someone 24 hours a day, and if there's a sharp intake of breath rather than a laugh, I know she's not right," she says. Sophie, seven, and Simon, five, are at school during the day so current live-in nanny Meredith Stanton, 24, from Australia, has plenty of free time to ride the family's horses and visit friends in the family car. She has one weekend in four and one day a week off, her own room, and use of the children's lounge in the evenings, and is paid "the going rate." Originally taken on for five months, she has stayed over a year. "I don't have many house rules," says Nicky, who works part time. "I don't mind smoking and we always give the nanny a stiff drink to help her get through bath time. I don't mind her friends coming to stay if we have the room, and she can invite them round in the evening. I don't mind how late it is in the evening as long as she's not tired out the following day. I had to gate one girl because she was out every night until 1am and was constantly worn out. She was barely 18 and was furious when I imposed a 10.30pm curfew. If I'm cooking in the evening, then the nanny eats with us. She also eats with us sometimes if we have a dinner party. But she also helps me out with dinner parties. I expect a girl to help out with everything, but I'll pay extra or give extra time off. Unfortunately, English girls generally seem to think that a nanny's job is like a holiday camp."

Herbal gospel

Did you know that sprigs of pennyroyal, rue or tansy, strategically placed, will get rid of ants that an infusion of camomile or valerian may relieve menstrual cramps, or that rosemary can make a concentrated household disinfectant? There have been books on recognizing herbs, growing herbs, cooking with herbs and herbal medicine, but *The Complete Book of Herbs* (Dorling Kindersley, £14.95), published tomorrow, combines all these functions — and more. Written by Lesley Bremness, who runs a "rare herb nursery" from the gardens of her 16th-century Suffolk cottage, it is published in association with the National Trust and enriched by magnificent colour photographs. It has an illustrated index of 100 herbs from aloe vera to yarrow — inspired by the herbs of Culpeper and Gerard — as well as 80 herbal recipes (including baked ham with marigold glaze, spiky lemon balm kebabs, lovage and lentil roquette, and elderflower fizz), and instructions on whipping up herbal household products, remedies and

decorations. Bremness shows how to make herbal writing paper, cosmetics which read like a shelf in *The Body Shop*, toys (lavender Ba-Pep mobile, spiced apple granny doll), potpourris and trinkets such as "rose beads", the origin of the rosary.

Mood shift

A simple cotton sleeveless shift is expected to sell for between £1,200 and £1,500 on September 12 when Sotheby's auction of Rock'n'Roll Memorabilia 1956-1986 begins. The dress was worn by one of the usherettes at the charity premiere of *A Hard Day's Night* and was signed, while she was wearing it, by all four Beatles and Brian Epstein. Other fashion finds include Paul McCartney's collarless jacket, circa 1963 (a bargain if it brings in only the modest £500 to £700 listed) and Lennon's grey velvet collared jacket of the same era, which should fetch more than its top catalogue price of £800. Two Elvis Presley ensembles (street, not stage) are priced at between £1,000 and £3,000, and even Graceland security guard uniforms are expected to bring in more than twice as much as the Beatles jackets. The pieces are on view from Monday to Friday next week.

BRIEFLY

A round-up of news, views and information

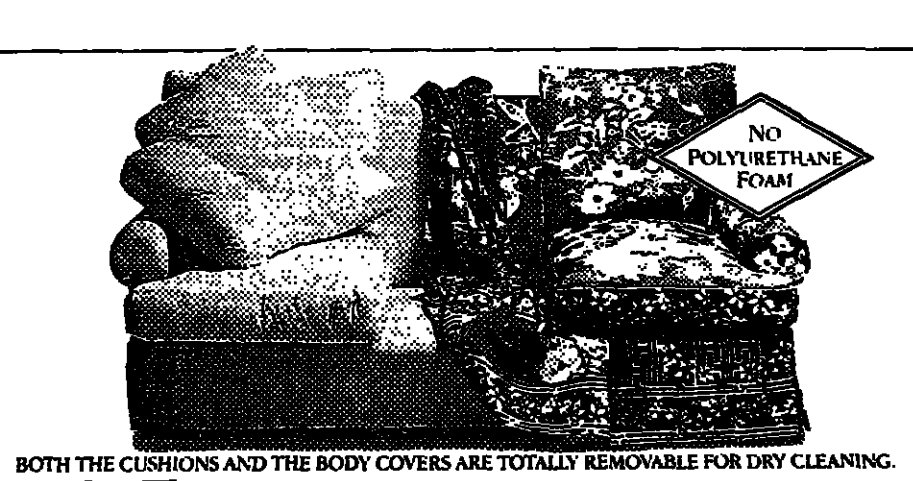
Quote me



"It's a question of making the health service user-friendly. And we have to make the student sensitive to the whole person, not just the body... Oh God, I sound like Prince Charles." Professor Lesley Rees, dean of St Bartholomew's medical school

Needle point

The Chester-care "specialist catalogue for aches and pains" may inspire you to try some do-it-yourself acupuncture



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TIMES DIARY

SHERIDAN MORLEY

In the first race at Windsor on Saturday, my father had a winner. I don't just mean Robert backed the right horse (in itself a rare enough occurrence), but that he actually owns *Class Struggle*. In almost 80 years of racing, and perhaps 40 of intermittent ownership, this has happened to him only about a dozen times, and I can't think of anything in his life - except for my mother - that has ever made him quite so blissfully happy.

Given the choice between winning an Oscar and winning a minor selling plate at Windsor, Robert would undoubtedly always choose the latter: his father was a compulsive gambler, but I used to think the strain might have died out with his generation because my brother and sister and I all tend to glaze over with boredom at the first sight of a horse under starter's orders, though my brother does admittedly gamble on Australian theatrical productions, which are usually an even riskier venture than the track.

Yet looking at my younger daughter Juliet, home and positively glowing with her winnings from Windsor at the weekend, it occurs to me that for the next 40 years of my life, as for the last 40, there will always be someone I love very much ransacking the backs of newspapers for the starting prices.

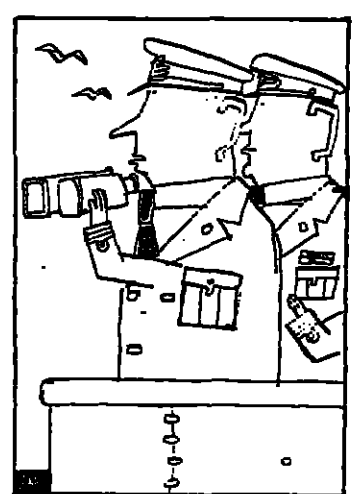
For reasons I will not trouble you with, I am no longer living at home in the Thames Valley but in a flat just behind Madame Tussaud's. It is all very curious and rather nostalgic. The last time I lived in a flat in central London was about 25 years ago, when they were inclined to cost about £9 a week. I started off in a couple of rooms above a paint store next to Paddington station, and used to lie awake at night worrying whether I would fit through the small leaded windows in the event of a sudden conflagration.

Then I moved above a launderette just off the Bayswater Road, and finished up sharing digs with Christopher Matthew, the great and good comic novelist, in a flat way out in Parsons Green owned by the actor Ian McCulloch. He was at that time giving his *Macbeth* to the playgoers of Chicago. One day the postman clambered up the stairs with a registered letter to be handed only to McCulloch. "He's in Chicago," I said. "Chicago, is it?" replied the postman thoughtfully. "Well, I'd better come back about half-past three then."

Christopher and I knew it was time to leave when we found all our rubbish neatly piled up outside the flat door, with a note to the effect that though we had taken the rooms, we had failed to acquire any dustbin rights downstairs. I then got married, and have been living almost ever since in a house on the edge of a farm in Berkshire.

The first thing that happens when you move back into a flat after a quarter of a century in a house is that you keep walking into doors and baths and bedrooms, because somehow they are all much closer together than you expect them to be. Then you have to keep remembering not to stand totally nude staring out of the bedroom window, because if you're my shape it tends to depress or alarm the people living in the flat opposite, whereas at the side of a farm it was only the cows and an occasional tractor. Then again, you have to remember when there's a noise upstairs not to shout at the children to shut up for God's sake, as the noise turns out mysteriously to be coming from someone who is not a blood relative.

BARRY FANTONI



"Skull and crossbones, ahead, skipper. Let's hope it's pirates and not the Karin B."

But I have been hugely lucky, in that the flat I'm renting is owned by an enchanting lady who teaches drama in New York and used to do so over here, so all her shelves are full of the same theatre books that I had at home. Being a creature of bookcase habit, there is something for me deeply reassuring about looking along a shelf and finding not only the same titles, but all arranged in roughly the same order as at home. I even found a couple of biographies that I'd written, and there is nothing better for the ego than that on a damp Bank Holiday weekend.

It is also entirely possible now for me to get from the bath to the *Punch* office in Fleet Street in about 15 minutes, whereas it used to take a couple of hours from Berkshire on a slow M4 morning. But however early I leave the flat, there is always a marathon queue winding its way around the block from the Planetarium. Does anyone who is not a tourist or a schoolchild have the faintest idea what actually goes on in there, or why people are apparently prepared to queue night and day to look at what must surely be available free by just staring upwards into the heavens?

Reading this newspaper's revelations last week of a conversation allegedly involving Lord Havers and the *Spycatcher* affair, apparently picked up by eager listeners in the lavatory of the Garrick Club, it occurs to me that I must go in there at altogether the wrong moments. All I ever seem to hear are publishers whinging about having to pay their authors' royalties or, on one memorable occasion, an extremely distinguished old actor muttering to his companion across the basins that the club was definitely going downhill since he had started letting in drama critics like me and Milton Shulman. I had the grace to smile at him benignly, but I don't think he was wearing his glasses.

National disruptive action by the Union of Communication Workers will probably cause more inconvenience than chaos. Over-use of the strike threat has lowered the UCU's credibility since the early 1970s, when Mr Tom Jackson was almost as regular a figure announcing an interrupted postal service as Mr Alan Tuffin has become.

The union bluff was first called in 1971, when Mr Heath's government toughed out a seven week strike in support of a 15 per cent pay claim. Since then, it has persisted in national disputes - four during the 1970s - followed by an attempted boycott of mail to South Africa, and an attempt to blockade Grunwick during its union troubles. The 1980s have been worse, with 213 disputes in 1987-88, pushing the number of working days lost to over 63,000.

The UCU has continued to act as if its bargaining aspirations were being frustrated by the intransigence of Post Office management, rather than the realities of economic life. In fact the Post Office has been too slow to automate its systems, decentralize its bargaining and remove restrictive practices.

Each significant improvement in management efficiency has hit union problems. Before the union fastened on local pay

Graham Mather says today's postal strike will simply boost the alternatives

Tuffin and the fax factor

incentives, it objected to plans to liberalize the unwieldy system of expensive Crown Office post offices. Other disputes have concerned the use of casual and part-time staff, adjustment to postmen's working week, and an almost traditional threat to disrupt the Christmas mail. A letter mechanization programme begun in 1969 has been long delayed by UCUW obstruction.

Each time letter boxes are sealed more Post Office customers experiment with other means of communicating with each other. Since the early 1980s, professional firms have stepped up their use of document exchange services. A courier market has developed for urgent packets charged at more than £1. But a national strike now could set off a stage change in business communications through the telecom system.

Britain is tied up in a telecom boom which will double the West European telecoms market

from 105 billion ECUs to 200 billion - or £134 billion - by 1992. Britain accounts for a third of alternative network services - and the sudden take-off in fax machines suggests that business substitution of fax correspondence for letters is now a real possibility. By June this year well over 250,000 fax machines had been installed - overtaking telex and way ahead of electronic mail. With new installations running at almost 100,000 every six months, the fax boom should cause real concern to the Post Office.

A postal strike could massively reinforce the "fax culture". Although some companies have already expanded their fax capacity and are using them intensively, many businesses confine their use to urgent items. That would probably change quickly - and permanently - as a strike brought a scramble for fax machines, and a new approach to their regular use. A

post strike would open the eyes of business to new means of communicating which are technically possible, but not yet part of business culture. A modern telecom business like Mercury will in future routinely be able to take correspondence from a personal computer, turn it into a fax, a telex, an electronic mail letter and transmit it by cable or satellite worldwide, instantly, even paging the recipient and displaying the message to be read out on an alphanumeric pocket pager.

The contrast between today's technology and the laborious attempts of the UCUW to perpetuate old approaches and poor performance could scarcely be more acute. But the Post Office faces a challenge from another front. Providers of banking and financial services, databases and electronic fund transfer systems also have their eyes on a new market opening up. Computer companies are racing to establish

the technology for a national electronic fund transfer network. A national strike would produce another culture change as these providers, from the bank giro system to "intelligent" credit card terminal operators, look at the scope for eliminating the Post Office from ever more daily customer communications. Already large mail order houses can swiftly shift order systems to bank giro forms and delivery to their own, or contracted private delivery services.

Against this background the question of the Post Office's remaining letter post monopoly assumes less significance: the letter is probably in long-term decline other than for direct mail campaigns and personal correspondence. But it makes little sense to perpetuate the monopoly, and exasperated Post Office managers might now welcome the outright removal of the weapon with which the UCUW has battered them over the years.

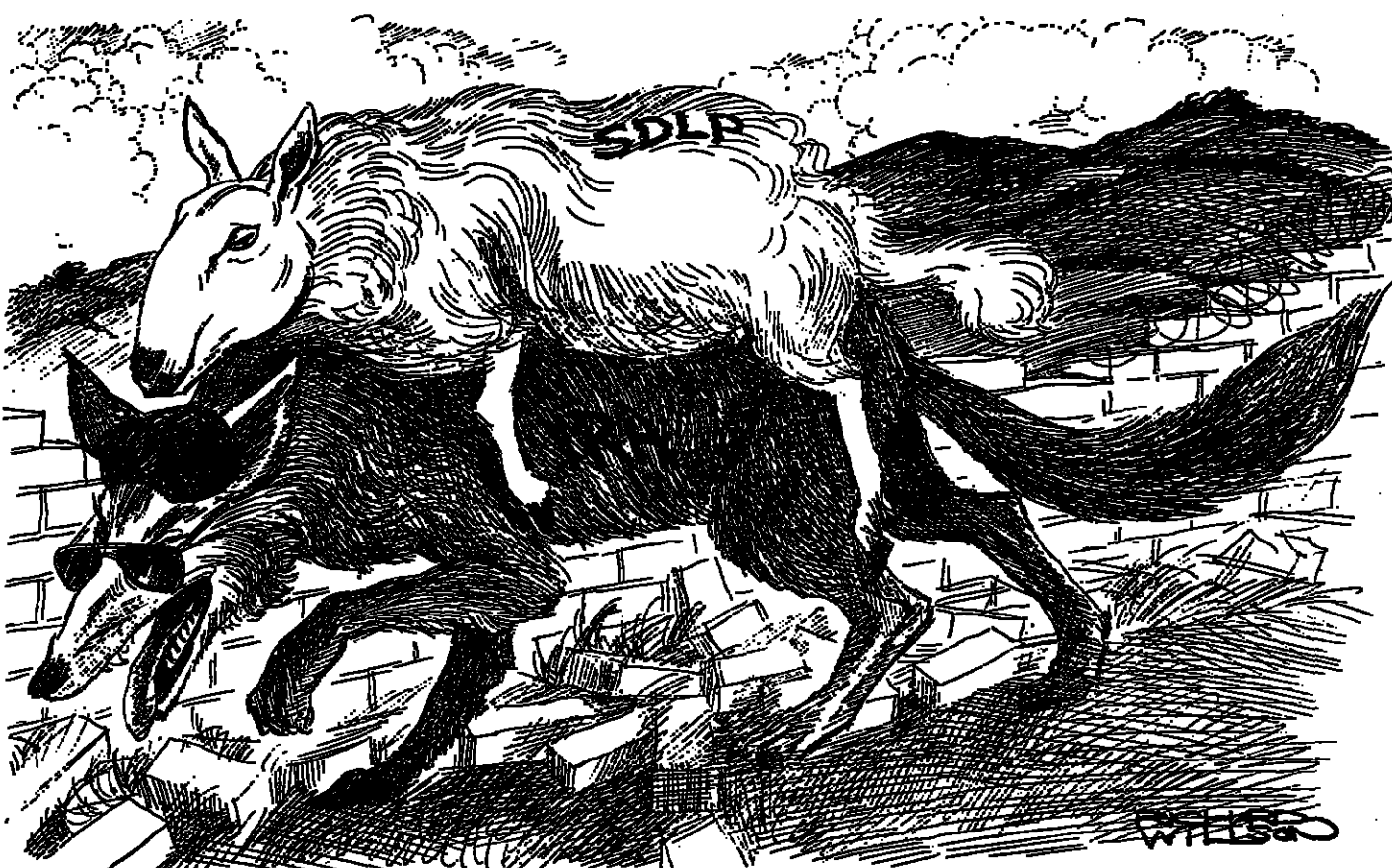
The existing government guidelines on suspending the monopoly are clear. They provide for its suspension if industrial action in the Post Office results in a cessation or serious decline in the quality of the postal service. But it would make more sense to suspend the monopoly and keep it suspended. Some believe that the current profitability of the Post Office, with its improved management, national network, trained staff and experience, makes it a viable candidate for privatization.

The objection that the Royal Mail is too precious to entrust other than to government hands carries little weight when the letter boxes are sealed. With all the signs now that business will be able to cope with a postal strike, that a strike would give a kick start to massive expansion of new data systems, it will be ordinary private customers of the Post Office who will suffer the inconvenience and sadness of being unable to keep in touch with those close to them. If private providers can ease their plight during the current dispute, they should be allowed to stay in the market once it is over.

The author is General Director of the Institute of Economic Affairs.

Conor Cruise O'Brien

Ignorance makes easy prey



ing power rests on the back of the armed struggle." I think most people in Northern Ireland, in both communities, see the matter in precisely that light. But few people in Britain seem to have noticed what is going on.

Seamus Mallon, on RTE radio on Saturday, having ruled out internment and all-over "repressive" responses to the IRA, indicated that the correct response has to be a political solution. The Unionists, said Mr Mallon, in a revealing phrase, would have to "come out of their trenches" and join in discussions with the nationalist parties of all Ireland, about an all-Ireland solution. In short, the Unionists will have to surrender. Until they do so, the violence will continue, through no fault of the SDLP, which will continue punctiliously to denounce each individual atrocity, in its immediate aftermath.

The IRA, with discreet and deniable assistance from the SDLP, has made considerable progress since November 1985, the date of the Anglo-Irish Agreement. Most Catholics approve of the agreement, not as an "active reconciliation" - the formula that appeared on the label - but as a goal scored against the Protestants.

The SDLP and the IRA were given about equal credit for that achievement. And both are now demanding, each in its own language, further advances at the expense of the Protestants, further moves towards a united Ireland. As the Protestants are not about to throw in the sponge, the stage is being set for even greater violence.

I don't think the IRA can be beaten without the simultaneous introduction of internment on both sides of the border. That cannot come unless and until the Republic, for its own reasons, decides that it is necessary to bring back internment.

Republican reactions to last week's extraditions may stimulate thinking along those lines. The modern IRA is a greater potential threat to the Republic than any subversive organization previously known. In any case, contingency plans for internment should now be placed on the agenda of the Anglo-Irish Inter-Governmental Conference.

car on the Continent - armed attacks on whom can be justified, with some credibility, as part of a military operation.

If you were thinking of a motor holiday in France or Germany this autumn, you would do well to hire a French or German car. British licence plates, after last week's decision, might make you a target. Those who made that decision don't seem to have given much thought to what the IRA are actually like.

More generally, I fear that most British politicians have only the haziest impression about the social and political context of the Provisional IRA's home territory: the Catholic areas of Northern Ireland. We heard, for example, last week from Roy Hattersley about what the effect of the re-introduction of internment would be in the minority areas. Internment would be disastrous, Mr Hattersley thought, because it would alienate "law abiding people" in the areas concerned.

I imagine that, in Yorkshire,

the expression "law abiding people" may have a fairly straightforward and stable connotation. In Northern Ireland, this is not the case, and it is especially not the case in the Catholic areas. If by "law abiding people" you mean people who are not themselves in the habit of breaking the law, by acts of commission, then there are many such people in the areas in question. But if you confine the use of the term "law abiding" to people prepared to co-operate with the police and other law enforcement agents against malfeasants of all descriptions, then the number of the law abiding, in those areas, dwindles to vanishing point.

Specifically, people in those areas are not prepared to co-operate with the police against the IRA. On the other hand, many of them have a high propensity to co-operate with the IRA against the security forces and the Protestant community.

As Seamus Mallon, deputy leader of the SDLP put it last

week: "The British already exercise the most stringent powers in Western Europe... there must be no further repressive legislation... the root of the problem is the inability of the security forces to obtain evidence to convict... one reason for this is that the whole security operation does not command respect and support within the community."

Mr Hattersley is right to the extent that the re-introduction of internment would be followed by large scale protests among the population of the Catholic areas. But "the alienation of the law abiding" is not what would be involved. What would be involved would be a general alliance, for a particular propaganda campaign, within different shadings of a community whose members refuse, in all circumstances, to co-operate with the security forces.

I don't know whether any British politicians are beginning to realize the extent to which they - and the Dublin government - were conned by the SDLP at the time of the genesis of the Anglo-Irish Agreement,

which was of course the brain child of the SDLP leader, John Hume.

The agreement, if you remember, was supposed to be aimed at "isolating the men of violence" by ending "the alienation of the minority". Nothing of the kind has happened. The violence has increased throughout the entire lifetime of the agreement. The men of violence, far from being isolated, have been engaged in cosy and protracted converse with the SDLP.

The SDLP still refuse to advise their supporters to give evidence against the IRA; they also oppose any legal changes - "repressive legislation" - which might have the effect of compensating for the inability to obtain evidence. These SDLP positions are inherently helpful to the IRA, providing them with a layer of respectable cover.

But the IRA are also helpful to the SDLP. As Danny Morrison - publicity director of Sinn Féin and a participant in the Sinn Féin-SDLP talks - put it this month: "The SDLP's negotiat-

Commentary • MUSA MAZZAWI

The land the UN forgets

In a speech to the US Congress in 1917, President Woodrow Wilson said: "No peace can last, or ought to last, which does not recognize and accept the principle that governments derive all their just powers from the consent of the governed..."

This concept, which later became known as the principle of self-determination, was incorporated in Article 1 of the United Nations Charter. By and large, the UN has acted in conformity with it. The one exception, however, has been Palestine and the Palestinian people.

The issue as seen by the Palestinian Arabs is very simple. They have lived in the land of Palestine for many centuries. From 1919 onwards they were forced to accept an increasing number of Jewish immigrants. In 1947 the UN partitioned Palestine into a Jewish state - which became Israel - occupied more territory than was allotted to it. One part of the remainder of Palestine was annexed by King Abdullah of Jordan (and became known as the West Bank); the other (the Gaza Strip) was administered by Egypt.

In 1967 Israel occupied the entire land of Palestine. Now King Hussein of Jordan has formally announced that he no longer lays claim to the Palestinian part of his kingdom. To whom does that part of Palestine now belong?

The Israeli argument is that

Palestine belongs to them, either because the Almighty so willed in the Bible or because nobody else exists to lay legitimate claim to it. On the basis of modern international law, Palestine belongs to its people. Much the same as Britain, the United States and France belong to the British, American and French peoples. If the rights of the British, the Americans and the French are readily conceded, why is there such hesitation and prevarication about the rights of the Palestinian people?

The law in regard to the Palestine problem is not really complicated. The Arabs objected to the UN partition scheme, arguing that the UN General Assembly had no authority to partition that country, and that even if it did it was unreasonable to do it in that manner. The General Assembly repeatedly refused to accede to Arab requests to refer the matter to the International Court of Justice at The Hague, so the court, which is the highest international judicial body and an organ of the UN, was never asked to pronounce on the issue.

Unless the law is to be regarded as an ass - and an irrelevant one at that - it remains the only criterion by which to judge the rights and wrongs of the dispute over Palestine. The Jewish state owes its existence to the UN resolution, and has been recognized by the UN on that basis. Arab Palestine is equally entitled to

exist, and in the territory allocated to it by the 1947 Resolution. On that basis Arab Palestine has the right to be recognized as a state.

As for the government of that state, the UN General Assembly has recognized the PLO as a "national liberation movement" and accorded it observer status. If the PLO now establishes a government-in-exile for Arab Palestine it would not be doing anything different from what several European countries did after the Nazi occupation in World War II. Those governments-in-exile were legally recognized. The criterion for recognition of governments in international law is whether they are representative of their peoples - not whether they are liked by the recognizing state.

Questions have been raised about the credibility, the relevance and the objectives of the PLO. The UN can verify this by conducting a plebiscite amongst the Palestinians. The PLO is on record as welcoming this test - unnecessary and superfluous though it thinks it is. Whoever the Palestinians then choose or approve as their representative ought to be accepted in that capacity by the rest of the world. And the Palestinian state should be considered for admission to the UN on the usual criteria for membership laid down in Article 4 of the Charter.

If the idea of a Palestinian state and a government-in-exile is not acceptable to the UN, then

it should consider afresh what to do with the Palestinians. There is a precedent in the treatment of Namibia. The International Court of Justice was asked by the UN for its opinion on the status of that territory. In 1966 the General Assembly adopted Resolution 2145, terminating South Africa's mandate over the territory and upholding the right of the territory's inhabitants to self-determination. It also placed the territory under the direct control of the UN. A special body was set up - called the Council for Namibia - to administer the territory. In 1971 the International Court ruled that South Africa's continued presence in the territory was illegal, and that all members of the UN were obliged to respect that decision.

There is nothing to prevent the UN from establishing a Council for Palestine to administer the affairs of the inhabitants of eastern Palestine (the West Bank) and the Gaza sector, as well as those parts of Palestine which the UN ruled belonged to the Arab state of Palestine more than 40 years ago.

There is no hint in the UN's repeated declarations of principle on human rights and self-determination which could justify excluding the Arab people of Palestine from their operation. There is nothing special or unique about the Palestinians - except perhaps that their cries for justice are disregarded. The author is a Palestinian and an expert on international law.

AUGUST 31 ON THIS DAY 1883

This travel article on Chicago also included a visit to Pullman, 11 miles away. On land which three years before had been no more than a prairie farm, a new town had sprung up which was soon to export luxury railway coaches all over the world.

A GROWING RIVAL TO NEW YORK

The initial impression made upon the visitor first entering Chicago is of the gigantic railway arrangements, and this is followed as he rides in an omnibus to his hotel by a sharp experience of the billowy condition to which much travel has reduced some of the wooden street pavements. But such shortcomings are forgotten when the Chicago hotel is entered. This city presents several immense and elaborate types of the grand American hostelry, famed everywhere as an aggregation at so many dollars a day, of about everything the traveller may want or think of, albeit in some cases actual comfort may be sacrificed to magnificence. The most elaborate... is Mr. Potter Palmer's splendid fireproof structure, upon which \$500,000 sterling has been spent in building and decoration. Within such palatial apartments and amid such gorgeous surroundings, it is almost impossible to believe that under the American hotel system the first duty of the traveller is considered to be to get even with the landlord by faithfully going through every course of the elaborate bill of fare. The word "hotel" in the States includes a

great deal more than merely lodging and food. These are the necessities, but they are accompanied by various accessories such as few hotel-keepers provide elsewhere. There are the extensive public parlours; reading, writing, smoking and reception rooms; the elevators constantly running; the electric bells and lights; messenger service; the billiards room; pool room, tennis alley, bar and beer's shop; the eating rooms that keep going from daylight to past midnight; the restaurant, wine, and coffee rooms; the aggregation of shops where everything needed can be bought without going out of doors...

The wide streets facilitate the enormous amount of moving traffic in the business portions of Chicago. Their wooden pavements and sidewalks are in many places in bad condition, but are being gradually replaced by more durable ones of stone. Unfortunately, the magnificent appearance of the finer buildings is marred by the griminess caused by the smoke, an evil that Chicago with characteristic energy is already discussing how to get rid of.

The city of Chicago is making rapid strides, and is destined at no distant day to rival New York in population. She commands the entrance to the great North-West, all the routes to and from that vast region of limitless future growth leading through Chicago, and most of its financial and business interests being controlled by Chicago people. The people here are proud of their city's amazing progress, and are generally so busily engaged in pushing their enterprises further and in piling up fortunes that they have no time to think of much else...

مكرا من الأصيل



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THE WASTE SHIP

The cargo of chemical waste on board the vessel Karin B is a potential environmental hazard. It is also a potential political embarrassment. It would be encouraging to think that Mrs Virginia Bottomley's decision to deny the ship access to British disposal facilities was designed solely to protect the environment. But that is not the most likely reason.

Last year, according to Government figures, some 53,000 tonnes of hazardous waste were imported into Britain, more than double the previous year's total. There is understandable reluctance to express pride in Britain's booming waste business, even though these "imports" are profitable services tendered by British companies to foreign customers and that British work in both treatment and disposal is commercially and technologically competitive.

In an ideal world, the industry would not be necessary. Waste-makers would clear up their own mess — like Boy Scouts. But in the real world of muck and brass, some waste trade is both inevitable and desirable. Properly regulated professionals are likely to do the job better.

The waste disposal industry could be better controlled. The Hazardous Waste Inspectors, in a report to the Government earlier this year, made a number of recommendations for doing so. Progress could be hastened in controlling the growth of the international trade in waste. These are the political needles which must be grasped.

It is hard to see how Mrs Bottomley's legalistic reasoning about labels helps matters. Nor does her summary dispatch of the problem as "one for the Italians". It may have been a well-intentioned bid to show a tough British attitude. But it sounded more like John Bull play-acting.

The Italians are certainly not blameless. If they did not turn a blind eye to the original shipment out of Pisa, then they were blithely indifferent to its ultimate destination once the Nigerians had reshipped the waste. But the

reckoning of accounts with the Italians ought to wait. The ship appears to be at risk of leaking toxic material into British sea. That fact demands action other than turning it away. It would have been better to risk the whipped-up wrath of the West Country, use the Royal Navy, and manage the safe disposal of the waste on land.

Such action would not be selfless. Britain is regularly accused in European councils — with some justice — of dragging its feet over anti-pollution measures. Resolute action over the Karin B would not only remove a hazard, it might give the Foreign Office an opportunity to seize the initiative in one or more of the sets of negotiation now going on under the environmental rubric. Such action would be seen as highly *communautaire* — a useful stance in fending off West German demands for the imposition elsewhere in the community of the high-cost German waste disposal regime.

Eventually, there must be common European standards governing the production and disposal of hazardous materials. In the meantime, the British Government should set in better order the domestic regime.

On the table there are recommendations from the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution, the Hazardous Waste Inspectors' report, and an as yet unfinished report from the House of Commons Select Committee on Environment. There is a long list of unaddressed problems, including too many badly regulated dumps and a disposal industry only just feeling its way into effective self-regulation.

But on the positive side of the balance there are a number of British companies with a good record of research and development on non-nuclear toxic waste disposal, and a flourishing export and import trade. Indicating a willingness to take the Karin B in tow to a British port and dispose of its cargo here might not be popular; it might win a new junior minister few plaudits. But it is a practical proposition which British industry could handle, even if its politicians could not.

PAYING THE POSTMAN

Special extra payments in the first year to recruits at a few selected post offices in the South-east do not, on the face of it, seem the stuff to set union blood running. They certainly cannot justify halting the nation's post.

The need to improve pay for recruits in areas with high living costs or better-paid job opportunities is hardly in dispute. But these special payments are viewed by the postal workers' leader, Mr Alan Tiffin, as the thin end of the wedge. The thick end, he fears, would bring general regional pay differentials and local pay bargaining.

Pay flexibility on a regional basis is anathema to trade unions, particularly in the public sector. In part, this harks back to the factory closures of the early eighties, when lower pay in areas of high unemployment was put forward as a way to price people back into jobs. This was an unpopular thesis for low-paid workers.

The situation is now reversed. Employers want to pay selectively higher pay in areas where it is impossible to recruit people to essential lower-paid jobs, or, as in the Post Office's case, keep them when they have been recruited. This problem is not confined to the postmen of Guildford. It applies equally to teachers in Hackney, to the staff of Broadmoor in Berkshire and to nurses in all sort of places. It has brought a 35 per cent pay premium for clerks in central London.

It is not hard for unions to feed disgruntlement over such payments, which usually benefit a minority in jobs that carry nationally low pay. In the case of the Post Office's officially named Difficult Recruitment Area Supplements, they do not apply to existing established staff in the offices affected. Envy is therefore mixed with a sense of injustice.

THE OLD DICTATOR

On Monday Libya's ambassador to France was denouncing the IRA. Within hours Colonel Gaddafi himself was criticizing his own revolutionary committees. The pronouncements of Libya's ruler for 19 years are as unpredictable as ever.

It is important not to be deceived by Colonel Gaddafi's increasingly frantic efforts to sanitize his regime. He clearly did not like hearing the statements that Libya had armed the IRA for its latest round of atrocities in Ulster. In recent months Gaddafi has tried to cultivate a new image for himself as a champion of freedom and tolerance.

Earlier this year pictures were flashed round the world of him sitting astride a bulldozer, knocking down the walls of a Tripoli jail. Gaddafi's message was that in modern Libya prisons were a relic of the past. He denounced arbitrary arrests.

Then he gave a repeat performance two months later, destroying a police post on the Tunisian border. Libyans, as part of the wider Arab nation, were not restricted by territorial boundaries, trumpeted the Tripoli press. Sure enough, visas were soon being issued for foreign travel, with foreign currency too.

To complete his new programme of *perestroika*, Gaddafi released further funds to restock depleted supermarkets with consumer goods. He also tried to enter into the spirit of growing co-operation between countries in the Maghreb by signing agreements with both Tunisia and Algeria.

But few were deceived. They realized he was fighting for his political life after his popularity had fallen to an all-time low. They blamed him for creating a situation where Libya had become a pariah among nations. They were shocked by the antics of murderous revolutionary committee members, dismayed that the United States had been driven to bomb Tripoli and angry over the losses in a war fought for his personal glory in Chad.

Meanwhile the country's economy was being

mismanaged, with depleted oil revenues being used to buy arms from Eastern Europe. Little foreign exchange was left for even essential imports.

Yet as the political inertia after the American raids demonstrated, no one was prepared to overthrow him. What is now clear is that the Libyan leader relied on his revolutionary committees to maintain his authority. They were happy to oblige because without him they were nothing.

After a period out of the limelight, Gaddafi emerged last year as a weakened but obstinately resilient leader. Realizing that he was not likely to relinquish power, neighbouring countries encouraged him to alter the shape of his regime. Algeria's President Chadli Bendjedid took the lead in offering Gaddafi an entrée back into the Arab fold through unity between their two countries. Algeria also acted as the conduit for talks between Gaddafi and opposition leaders.

Gaddafi's rapprochement with the Libyan opposition was a kite that flew for some time, but is now grounded. The idea of closer relations with the Arab world has more substance. Links with Algeria and Tunisia are predictably troubled, but Gaddafi is determined to make the most of his return to Arab credibility. He enjoys, for instance, the chance to mediate once more between various Palestinian factions.

In the course of all this the Libyan leader has sometimes been forced to denounce the excesses of his revolutionary committees. At one stage, with his talent for the political unexpected, he threatened them with the creation of a political party. But as has been shown by continued Libyan support for terrorism not only in Ireland, but in West Africa and the Pacific as well, the committees still maintain their influence. He cannot get rid of them, nor can they get rid of him. Gaddafi remains a vain, old-fashioned dictator whose unpredictability is curiously predictable.

Preparations for next carnival

From Mr Dudley Fishburn, MP for Kensington (Conservative)
Sir, Notting Hill's carnival turned out to be unevenly fun (except for those poor residents whose homes lie along the route). Large quantities of egg should be seen on the faces of those who predicted trouble, often with a certain amount of glee.

London's blacks have no desire for it. What they want, and are increasingly if belatedly getting, are jobs without prejudice, fair policing, and a stake in Britain's new-found prosperity. Unfortunately, many black leaders (some of whom declared the carnival a tinderbox) are dogmatically aligned to the left of the Labour Party. They are like the trades union bosses of a decade ago, full of fire, but the troops have gone off in a different direction.

The task of the carnival the morning after is to set its house in order. The organisation needs to be reorganised as a charity with proper accounts, with new blood from the local black business community, with more commercial sponsorship for the bands (well done, ICI) and with a year-round black chief executive.

There was disappointment at the missed chance that a well-run carnival would have given to inject some prosperity into one of the least-advantaged pockets in London. Carnival is the legitimate focus of black aspiration and celebration. It deserves an organisational fit for that role.

Yours faithfully,
DUDLEY FISHBURN,
House of Commons.
August 30.

Snowdonia pipeline

From Mr T. Mervyn Jones
Sir, As a former public gas man I am keen to enter into controversy with the public CEBG. But the record demands I do.

In the mid-1950s we of the then responsible Wales Gas Board laid a high-pressure gas pipeline along the North Wales coast. It went inland through some of the loveliest scenery in the Snowdonia National Park. It was so effectively buried, lost to sight without trace, that we had to commission our architect to design a small marker post placed discreetly at intervals along its route. Our technique was later followed by the oil and water as well as the gas industries.

So I must find myself in total support of the conservators and friends of Snowdonia (letters, August 16, 25) in opposing the CEBG's present proposals.

We could have hoped that the CEBG would responsibly recognise that the unspoiled beauty of Snowdonia is every bit as valuable a British asset as the required investment cost to them of burying the pipes.

Yours faithfully,
T. MERVYN JONES (Chairman,
Wales Gas Board 1949-70),
As from: Erw Hir,
38 Fairwater Road,
Llandaff, Cardiff.
August 25.

Motorway dangers

From Mr Fergus J. F. O'Mahony
Sir, Surely if the Chinese method of improving safety on motorways which is recommended by Miss Rowlands (August 25), namely by displaying at the *locus in quo* giant photographs of the dead and injured, were emulated here, many a hapless driver, say on the M25, might himself at breakfast time and in a state of revulsion at the sight, lose his concentration and end up himself being photographed and exhibited the next day. And so on.

Yours faithfully,
F. J. F. O'MAHONY,
St Margaret's House,
18/20 Southwark Street, SE11.
August 25.

Off to work

From Mr E. M. Behrens
Sir, I have an office which is directly over a JobCentre. Since a fortnight ago it has instituted a policy of only opening at 10 am for three days a week and the effect of this is that anybody who wants a day's work is not available to start until 11 am. This causes unhappiness for the few men who are trying to obtain a day's work.

Is it really the optimum policy? Sincerely,
E. M. BEHRENS,
Ionian Securities Limited,
92/94 Borough High Street, SE1.
August 24.

Lessons to learn

From Mr Michael Austin
Sir, Your correspondents (August 11, 24, 26) who advocate that people in industry should learn the languages of their foreign customers fail to take into account the practical difficulties.

For 20 years I was the publications manager of a small engineering company which is typical of many companies involved in exporting. During this period we exported to Algeria, Argentina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Ethiopia, Finland, Greece, Holland, India, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Malaysia, Nigeria, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Spain and Zimbabwe.

Which languages do your correspondents suggest I should have learned?

Usually our customers spoke good English, and in many cases had attended technical colleges where the tuition was entirely in

Perils of living beyond our means

From Mr H. E. Wall
Sir, At the age of 85 I remember all too well the terrible depression and unemployment of the late twenties and early thirties. In some respects we seem to be in a similarly precarious economic situation today, except that some business people and politicians, "whistling in the dark" try to cheer us up with news of an economic boom. Of course the "spending spree" produces an air of prosperity.

It seems to me, however, that the economic and industrial collapse of the twenties and thirties was due partly to a reckless dependence on the extension of credit through the developing acceptance of the hire-purchase system by an inexperienced public, including a business community assuming that the demand for goods, stimulated by this new system of buying by hire-purchase would go on increasing. Too much credit, then as now, encouraged industrialists to be over-optimistic about the prospects of expansion.

I suggest that, with the fashion now so widely followed of the use of credit cards, the present boom in the economy is a false one. The frightening gap between exports and imports just announced should be a grim warning.

All right, say I'm old-fashioned, that I'm in my second childhood, that Charles Dickens and his Mr Micawber had a point. We as a nation are living beyond our means. We are not sufficiently mature or educated in economics. Credit cards can promote short-term prosperity, but, used too optimistically, this new fashion is a path leading to an economic precipice.

Yours faithfully,
H. E. WALL,
Pennyfarthings,
Wistanstow,
Craven Arms, Shropshire.
August 25.

From Mr T. W. Kent
Sir, Once again the mortgage interest rate looks set to rise. Base levels of 13 and 14 per cent are envisaged which will no doubt cause mayhem to many people who borrowed at less than 10 per cent. Why is it the consumer who always has to bear the inadequacies of the providers when it comes to money matters?

Since my wife and I decided in February that we would start a family, our income will be cut in half in November when, all being well, our first child is due. If I work harder and longer still, and if interest rates don't go up then, our finances will only be "in the pink" at the end of each month. If interest rates change as forecast, then I, like many others, will find it very difficult to maintain the repayments on my house. Who knows, maybe it will have to be sold.

Should that point ever be reached, then as provider for my family (no sexism intended) I will have failed them.

What price other people's failings? I am yours faithfully,
TIMOTHY KENT,
North Road,
Petersfield, Hampshire.
August 26.

From Mr Simon Kverndal
Sir, It seems to be accepted that the boom in consumer spending is primarily responsible for the huge trade deficit and the problems of overheating in the British economy. Rises in interest rates may well cool down the economy, but this is likely to squeeze industry very hard: the demand boom will slow down at the same time as borrowing costs increase.

Credit controls are unlikely to be effective; if people want to borrow money it will be prac-

tically impossible to stop them. The better solution, surely is to encourage private savings.

A new issue of National Savings Certificates at very attractive rates is one way savings could be encouraged. I should like to suggest an additional attraction. In spite of Government protestations that there has been considerable increased spending in real terms, public opinion seems to favour much greater expenditure on the health service.

A special issue of "health service bonds", with the money so raised to be dedicated to increased expenditure on our hospitals, is a convenient solution. Although only much smaller sums could realistically be involved, other institutions, such as the Arts Council or the Sports Council could benefit by similar issues.

Such bond issues should not upset the Chancellor's overall strategy on taxation and public expenditure. On the contrary, they should encourage investment where people want to see it more rather than wasting our current prosperity on a flood of imported consumer goods.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON KVERNDAL,
48 Ebury Street, SW1.

From Mr P. M. Ingman
Sir, Over the past few months charge and credit card companies have reported record borrowings from their card holders. This, I understand, is the main driving force behind the consumer boom.

I also understand that most credit cards have a rule that a minimum of 5 per cent of the outstanding balance be paid back in any one month. If this level was increased to say 25 per cent of the outstanding balance, I am sure this would soon put a stop to the over-use of credit cards for consumer purchases and bring about the reduction in the consumer boom that the Government so desires.

Interest rates could then be lowered to the benefit of industry, without the knock-on effect of stimulating a consumer boom and hence inflation.

Yours faithfully,
P. M. INGMAN,
27 Braselade Avenue,
Sevenoaks, Kent.
August 26.

'Last Temptation'

From Mrs Maria Goldberger
Sir, As a Roman Catholic I am glad that Cardinal Hume did promptly and unequivocally ask Catholics not to see the film *The Last Temptation of Christ*, as a protest against its distorted portrayal of the life of Christ.

What qualifications has Mr James Ferman, director of the British Board of Film Classification — whose comments amounted to a virtual endorsement of the film (report, August 26) — to judge whether it is or is not offensive to Catholics? He should have consulted the experts, as is the general practice in other fields.

The Catholic expert — Cardinal Hume — gave a clear answer that the film is offensive. As a Roman Catholic I am grateful that Cardinal Hume spoke out. Yours sincerely,
MARIA GOLDBERGER,
20 Albion Gate, W2.
August 26.

From Professor Douglas C. Spanner

Sir, Now that *The Last Temptation of Christ* has been declared acceptable for public showing are we at liberty to assume that similar fictional films about Mohammed or The Buddha would be acceptable? Yours,
DOUGLAS C. SPANNER,
Ivy Cottage, Main Street,
Grove, Wantage,
Oxfordshire.
August 26.

Ashton recalled

From The Editor of The Dancing Times
Sir, Frederick Ashton did indeed appear with the Cremorne Company, as Fred Ashton, in 1926 as Paul Payne notes in his letter (August 25). It should be made clear, however, that it was at the invitation of Cyril W. Beaumont (1891-1976) the ballet historian and bookseller, not Binkie (Hugh) Beaumont of H. M. Tennant fame.

Cyril Beaumont's bookshop at 75 Charing Cross Road was a mecca for dancers and it was in the shop that he first encountered Ashton. "a rather shy, nervous young man" as he was to write later. It was on the advice of Beaumont and his wife Alice that Ashton first sought out Massine.

Yours faithfully,
MARY CLARKE,
Editor, The Dancing Times,
Clerkenwell House,
45-47 Clerkenwell Green EC1.
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August 26.

Pooter's law

From Mr Paul Bentley
Sir, This morning at breakfast, while reading your report (August 25) from the World Congress of Philosophy, in particular of Sir Karl Popper's theory of propensity which states that there exist weighted possibilities that are more than mere possibilities, but propensities to become real, I dropped a piece of toast, which landed — what else — on the buttered side.

I find myself in agreement with Sir Karl.

Yours Pooterishly,
PAUL BENTLEY,
25/9 Old Court Place,
Kensington High Street, W8.
August 25.

Charitable needs on Continent

From Baroness Cox
Sir, I have just taken a truckload of medical supplies to Poland. The situation there is catastrophic. Many essential medicines and items of equipment are frequently not available, including antibiotics, analgesics, cytotoxic drugs, incubators for the new-born, respirators for intensive care, and numerous small but crucial items such as needles, syringes, surgical gloves, cotton wool, incontinence pads... the list is too long to print. In one major city, surgeons could not operate because there were no intravenous fluids.

Health problems are exacerbated by environmental pollution: healthy foods, such as fruit, are often prohibitively expensive; many children suffer from vitamin deficiency; but mothers in Warsaw were recently advised not to give children carrot juice because carrots are polluted by chemicals.

In several cities unhealthy food and working conditions are reflected in dramatic increases in pathological births; in one major city a recent study found no mother with a normal placenta. At the other end of life, life expectancy for men has recently dropped from 70 to 65.

Medical Aid for Poland Fund (MAFP) saves many lives. This was its 18th truck; its total aid over the past few years now exceeds £10 million. Great care is taken to ensure that the aid reaches those most in need. But, like all charities, it runs on faith and a shoestring.

Would it be possible for a tiny fraction of ODA (Overseas Development Administration) resources to be given to charities such as MAFP which take aid to countries on the European Continent, whose health needs now resemble those of developing countries? This would be a humane and efficient use of resources; it would also be a much-valued symbolic support to fellow-Europeans to whom we owe so much, both historically and culturally.

Yours faithfully,
CAROLINE COX,
House of Lords.
August 23.

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PAUL BENTLEY,
25/9 Old Court Place,
Kensington High Street, W8.
August 25.



COURT CIRCULAR

BALMORAL CASTLE
August 30: The Princess Royal, President, British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, visited James Johnston and Company of Elgin Limited, Newmill, Elgin (chairman, Mr J. Harrison) this afternoon.

Her Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Morayshire (Sir Iain Tennant).

The Hon Mrs Legge-Bourke was in attendance.

The Queen will attend a service of dedication of the roof and vault of the restored south transept of York Minster on November 4.

The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, will open the new Chapter House of Southwark Cathedral on November 9.

The Prince of Wales will visit the Birmingham Railway Museum on September 14 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the opening of the London and Birmingham Railway.

A thanksgiving service for Colin Huttenbach will be held at St Margaret's, Louthborough, at noon on Wednesday, September 7.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal, as Patron of the Butler Trust, will visit Barlinton Prison, East Ayrshire, Scotland, at 11.30, and as President of the British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, will visit Traditional Weatherwear, 10a Blairfin Estate, Cumbernauld, at 2.45.

Birthdays today

Judge Michael Argye, QC, 73; Vice-Admiral B.T. Brown, Admiral President-designate, RN College, Greenwich, 54; Mr Roy Castle, entertainer, 56; Sir James Glenister, chairman, British Overseas Trade Board, 67; Lieutenant-General Sir Napier Crookenden, 73; Judge de Piro, QC, 69; Air Marshal Sir Edward Gordon Jones, 74; Mr Larry Grayson, entertainer, 58; Mr Clive Lloyd, cricketer, 44; Professor Sir Bernard Lovell, former director, Jodrell Bank Experimental Station, 75; the Rev Joseph McCulloch, 80; Mr Bryan Organ, painter, 53; Mr Itzhak Perlman, violinist, 43; Mr Justice Sheen, 70; Mr Cyril Spencer, former chairman, Waring and Gillow, 64.

Schools

Charterhouse
Oration Quarter begins today. R.B. Ewart-White is head of school and D.J. Austin is head of football. The fourth Sir Robert Birley memorial lecture will be delivered by Mr Brian Rees on Tuesday, September 27. The Founder's Day dinner in London will be on Wednesday, December 7. Exet is from October 27 to 30. The combined staff conference with Prendergast School is on November 2. The Old Colfeians' reunion dinner is at the school on November 18. Midsummer Night's Dream will be performed on December 1, 2 and 3. The first and second XV's play Old Colfeians' under-21 XV's on December 11. The Festival of Readings and Carols will be on December 19 in the School Hall.

Colfe's School
Autumn Term begins on August 31 and ends on December 20 with carols at St Mary's, Lewisham. Half-term is October 24 to November 2. T.J. Barker is school captain. Lady Warnock will speak at Governors' Visitation on October 21. The combined staff conference with Prendergast School is on November 2. The Old Colfeians' reunion dinner is at the school on November 18. Midsummer Night's Dream will be performed on December 1, 2 and 3. The first and second XV's play Old Colfeians' under-21 XV's on December 11. The Festival of Readings and Carols will be on December 19 in the School Hall.

Ellerslie School, Malvern
Autumn Term begins today. Mrs Elizabeth Bate is headmistress and Joanne Challen is head girl. Half-term is on October 15 to 23, and the school play (a joint production with Malvern College) *Oh, What a Lovely War!* will be performed in Malvern Festival Theatre on October 26, 27 and 28. The confirmation service will be held on November 26 and term ends on Friday, December 9.

Malvern College
Autumn Term begins today. Mr P. Nicholls, who has been vice-chairman of the council since

History of entertainment on a string



Mr Keith Allen, of the Puppet Centre Trust, with some of the Hogarth collection of puppets on show at the Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood in east London until October 16. The puppets span 200 years and come from five continents. The Puppet Centre has launched a fund-raising campaign to buy the Hogarth collection (Photograph: Dennis Neelance).

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Theophile Gautier, writer, Tarbes, France, 1811; Maria Montessori, educator, Chiaravalle, Italy, 1870; Wilhelmina, Queen of The Netherlands 1890-1948, The Hague, 1880; Fredric March, actor, Racine, Wisconsin, 1897; DEATHS: Henry V, reigned 1413-22, Vincennes, France, 1422; John Bunyan, London, 1688; Charles Lever, novelist, Dublin, 1806; Arthur Phillips, first governor of New South Wales, Bath, 1814; Charles Baudelaire, poet, Paris, 1867; Georges Braque, Cubist painter, Paris, 1963; Ilya Ehrenburg, novelist and poet, Moscow, 1967.

Shark shock

Researchers at the Natural World sealife centre in Poole, Dorset, believe they have discovered why sharks attack underwater telephone cables. They are said to be attracted to the electric current, which gives out signals similar to that emitted by their prey.

Guides facelift

The five-storey headquarters near Buckingham Palace of the Girl Guides, built in the 1920s and often described as a "mausoleum", is to be extensively refurbished to provide modern facilities.

1963, has retired from that position. He is succeeded by Mr J.R.D. Scriven. D. Elias is senior chapel prefect and D.T.T. Ball is junior chapel prefect. Mr Alan McNiff succeeds Mr Michael Duffy as Second Master, the Rev Keith Williams becomes Senior Tutor, and Mr Frank Harris Director of Studies. Mr Christopher Hall becomes Housemaster of No 5 on the retirement of Mr John Blackshaw, who is appointed Master of Extra Curricular Activities. Mr Rory Boyle succeeds Mr Michael Brown as Director of Music and Mr Tim Newsholme succeeds Mr John Brown as Director of Art. Julian Peckers, from Westbourne College, Penarth, takes up the sixth-form scholarship and James Bruton from West House, Edgborough, comes with the Malvernian Society Award. The school play, a joint production with Ellerslie, is *Oh, What a Lovely War!* and will be performed in the Festival Theatre on the nights of October 26, 27 and 28. Confirmation will be on Sunday, November 6 at 10.30am. The OM dinner will be held in Big School on Saturday, November 12. There will be an orchestral concert in Big School at 7.30 pm on Saturday, December 3 and the Advent carol service for parents and friends from the town will be held at 8 pm on December 7. Term ends on December 10.

St Edward's School, Oxford
Term starts today with Mr D. Christie as Warden, succeeding Mr J.C. Phillips who has retired. Raphael Lyne is head of school. The Assessment Day for lower VIth girls is on November 5 and the Assessment Weekend for lower VIth girls is on November 12/13; about 25 places will be offered to girls this year. Commemoration is on November 26. Term ends on December 10.

Marine fish farms
The Crown Estate Commissioners have been called upon to relinquish their planning control over the siting of marine fish farms by the end of the year. The Scottish Seafood Trust says the Crown Commissioners should hand over control to local authorities.

Crown control 'should end'

By Kerry Gill

In a letter to Lord Mansfield, the First Crown Commissioner, Mr Neil Jamieson, the trust's chairman, says: "It would relieve the commissioners of a chore for which they are heavily criticized and would have a minimal effect on their income."

At present, local authority planning powers extend only as far as the low-water mark. The location of marine fish farms has to be decided by the Crown Estate Commissioners, who are the owners of the sea bed.

Mr Jamieson said yesterday: "It would also force

Scottish Office ministers to tackle the problems of control over marine fish farming. They have preferred instead to let the Crown Estate 'take the flak', and as a result the public image of the Crown Estate has suffered."

The Government, he said, should come up with alternative arrangements. The most effective would be to extend local authority planning control and demonstrate that coastal planning came under the democratic process in Scotland.

"The commissioners are supported only by Scottish Office ministers, who by continuing to exclude the siting of sea fish farms from the democratic planning process and flouting the electorate's wishes, seem intent on committing political harikari", Mr Jamieson said.

The trust has often given warnings of the dangers of

Forthcoming marriages

Mr L.T. Ryan and Mrs C.B. Dingle

The engagement is announced and the marriage will take place in the United States on September 10, between Lawrence Ryan, of New York and Long Island, and Celia, daughter of the late Mr Burnaby Drayson, MP, and of Lady Charles, of 42 Belgrave Mews, South, SW1, and daughter of the late Sir John Charles.

Mr J.R.A. Bennett and Miss H. Toos

The engagement is announced between Alastair, eldest son of the late Mr W. Bennett and of Mrs Bennett, of Ashby Parva, Leicestershire, and Helen, only daughter of Mr and Mrs R. Toon, of Burbage, Leicestershire.

Mr S.J. Brickman and Miss R.C. Bending

The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs Howard Brickman, of Chiswick, London, and Rachel, daughter of Mr and Mrs Douglas Bending, of Goring, Oxfordshire.

Mr A.B. Camm and Miss M.J. Worboys

The engagement is announced between Adrian, eldest son of M. Alain Camm, of Brussels, Belgium, and the Marchess, daughter of the late Mr Whitworth, of Shropshire, and Melanie, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Roger Worboys, of Putney, London.

Mr P.M. Chesterfield and Miss V.M. Faux Jackson

The engagement is announced between Philip Markham, elder son of Mr and Mrs Markham, of Chiswick, London, and Rachel, daughter of Mr and Mrs Douglas Bending, of Goring, Oxfordshire.

Mr R. Parkhouse and Miss F. McKinnon

The engagement is announced between Richard, younger son of Mr and Mrs David Parkhouse, of Ringmore, Devon, and Fiona, eldest daughter of the late Mr Robert McKinnon and of Mrs Robert McKinnon, of Solihull, West Midlands.

Mr T.W. Richards and Miss C.D. Slade

The engagement is announced between Timothy Wayne, elder son of Mr and Mrs D.A. Richards, of 11 Aely-Bryn, Juddell, Dyfed, and Catherine Diana, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs D.M. Slade, of Five Acres, Ivy Hatch, Sevenoaks, Kent.

Latest wills

Estate of £23m

Mrs Eva Sardinia Northwick-Norton, of Puttock, Hampshire, left estate valued at £23,652,039 net. She directed that all her paintings of national or artistic interest be offered to the Inland Revenue in lieu of tax payable on condition they be passed to the Royal Scottish Academy, Edinburgh, for permanent display. After several legacies she left the residue equally between the Little Sisters of the Poor, Leeds, and the Pasteur Institute, Paris. Baroness Lane-Fox, of London N8, campaigner and fund raiser for the treatment and welfare of disabled people, left £197,914 net.

Explosive comeback for toads

By Kerry Gill

A colony of the rare natterjack toad has been saved within the grounds of a Dumfriesshire explosives factory, the Nature Conservancy Council (NCC) said yesterday.

More than 1,000 natterjack toads emerged from purpose-built pools at Nobel's Explosives Company, Powfoot, which manufactures defence and aerospace materials.

Natterjacks, Britain's rarest amphibians, have lived around the factory for some years, but after the toad population was monitored by NCC staff, it was found that they had not been breeding successfully for several years because their existing pools were no longer suitable.

Nobel's management agreed to dig two special pools for the natterjacks to a specification laid down by the NCC. Their pools must be shallow, unshaded and sandy, and have next to no plant growth. Oddly, perhaps, the toads like their pools to dry out in warm summers.

The remaining natterjacks took to their pools and now at least 1,000 toads, no more than one centimetre long, have emerged from the two pools after thousands of tadpoles were produced. Only about 40 colonies of natterjacks exist in Britain and the colonies in Dumfriesshire, are thought to be the only ones in Scotland.

The NCC said the factory's action had helped to save the colony and demonstrated how industry could help wildlife to adapt to unfamiliar surroundings.

The natterjack toad is a small, dark, bumpy creature, which is found in the garden of his home at Hall Street, Rhos, Wrexham.

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OBITUARY

DR WILLIAM SARGANT

Controversial British psychiatrist

Dr William Walters Sargent, who died on August 27, at the age of 81, was a controversial psychiatrist, whose ardent championing of chemotherapy and other physical forms of treatment of mental disorders brought him into often violent conflict with those who favoured a primarily psychoanalytical approach.

But his forceful proselytism sprang from a concern that the general practitioner — who is at the sharp end of the public's psychiatric problems — should be able to prescribe effective remedies. He made psychiatry more respectable by keeping it close to the medical model, and he did a great deal to make depression intelligible to GPs and therefore to make it a respectable illness.

Sargent often courted publicity — most notably, perhaps, in 1976, when he went on American television to tell audiences he was convinced that the kidnapped heiress Patty Hearst had been brainwashed by the Symbionese Liberation Front.

Sargent, who had been a key member of the defence team, as one of the world's authorities on brainwashing and mass manipulation, was swiftly dropped. But he continued to discuss the matter, on his return to London, in columns he wrote for *The Times*.

He also wrote for *The Times* on a variety of other matters, including one for which he can claim great credit — namely his long and hard-fought campaign from the 1930s onwards to banish for ever the notion that mental hospitals should be considered as merely custodial institutions.

His experience of mental hospitals, places "full of terrible suffering", in the years before the war made an indelible impression on him, and he determined to devote his life to altering the psychiatrist's concept of what could be achieved for patients.

The solutions he chose, which embraced drug therapy and electric shock treatment, drew opposition which was not decreased by his own pugnacious advocacy of his methods, and his belittling of those who voiced other possibilities. But his reputation was always one difficult to ignore, even among those who profoundly disagreed with him.

SIR JOHN MARSHALL

Sir John Marshall, PC, CH, who as New Zealand's Minister of Overseas Trade negotiated his country's agreement with the EEC when Britain joined the community, and who was a former Prime Minister, died yesterday while on a private visit to this country, aged 76.

A member of New Zealand's National Party, he had a remarkably long period as a Minister, uninterrupted, except for three years when Labour was in power, from 1949 till he was obliged to quit the premiership in 1972 after the party he then led went down to defeat in a general election.

He was only Prime Minister from February that year till November, due largely to the fact Keith Holyoake, his predecessor, held on to power almost to the General Election itself.

He had held the posts of Deputy Premier and Minister of Overseas Trade from 1960. He had been Attorney-General



William Walters Sargent was born on April 24, 1907, and educated at the Leys School, and St John's College, Cambridge. His parents were staunch Methodists, and his interest in the movement never left him. As a young man he spent a good deal of his time in the British Museum reading about evangelism, and his research into the effects of Wesley's preaching gave him his first ideas about the nature of mass hysteria.

At St John's he did little work, preferring to concentrate on rugby. He never got a Blue, though he captained St John's and was reserve for the university. But his rugby earned him a place at St Mary's Hospital Medical School, London, where after qualifying he researched on anaemias, while playing for the hospital and for Middlesex.

Illness — depression combined with pulmonary tuberculosis — led to his resignation from the staff of St Mary's, but from a mood of despair was kindled an interest in psychiatry. He took a locum appointment at Hanwell Mental Hospital, where, the renowned Dr Connolly had started his campaign a century ago for abolishing the purely mechanical restraint of lunatics.

In spite of Connolly's impetus many psychiatrists still saw themselves in a purely custodial light, and the Hanwell experience deeply depressed Sargent, determining the course of his life.

At the evacuated Maudsley Hospital during the war he introduced new, and at the time, controversial, physical

treatments. He had already lectured on his methods in the United States and he was now invited to spend a year at Duke University as Visiting Professor.

In 1948 he was appointed Physician in Charge of the department of Psychological Medicine at St Thomas' Hospital, London, where he was to remain until 1972.

His impact on psychiatry at St Thomas' was dramatic. The numbers of patients seen and treated rose rapidly. As a teacher he was inspiring and many students now distinguished in their field, passed through his hands.

He saw his role as a reliever of suffering. If someone was unhappy they must be made happy. But for this to happen the patient had to surrender himself body and soul to Sargent, who, with a disdain for what he considered the aimlessness of the psychiatrist's couch, often declared that one tranquilliser was better than a year of talk.

It was due to Sargent that most of the new physical techniques were introduced to this country as quickly as they were: in particular his use of drugs helped prevent many shell-shocked soldiers of the Second World War becoming chronic neurotic invalids, as had happened so often after the First.

Electro-convulsive therapy (ECT) remained deeply suspect in some quarters, though the results Sargent obtained from it caused it to be more widely accepted than had at one time been thought possible. To work with Sargent was to learn never to despair of making a patient better.

Sargent was also a considerable administrator. At first opposed to the idea of a Royal College of Psychiatry on the grounds that it might divide psychiatry from medicine, he threw his weight behind his colleagues when it became obvious that they were determined to form such a college.

Among his books, *The Battle for the Mind* (1957) is preeminent, and was a landmark in its day. A television series to mark his 80th birthday reviewed some of his work on the brain mechanisms, and showed the undimmed vigour of his mind.

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Continued on page 25

THE ARTS

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TELEVISION

City of dreams still in reverie

This year, the city of Glasgow has decided to advertise its regeneration: from the ashes of slum culture and mass unemployment have risen a brood of phoenixes, including the festivals of art and horticulture. These events temporarily made the city a Mecca for many of the British middle class.

Glasgow: By the Way (Channel 4) was a timely documentary series, which concluded last night with a brief, rambling history of socialism in the city. The programme began with the May Day march, a tradition since 1889 and an inspiring testimony to socialism's epic status in the community.

In Glasgow, radicalism retains all the romance, mythology and glamour it lacks elsewhere: monuments, traditions, and reluctant working class heroes abound to renew the people's energy for the elimination of capitalism.

Although the number of orators at the May Day rally has dwindled from 30 to a handful, in the past 50 years, socialism in Glasgow shows no real sign of failing. The council has a massive Labour majority and, for the first time, every constituency in the area has a Labour MP in Westminster.

Clearly, however, the political texture of the community has changed. One man asked how young people were ever to learn their history when they had no job and therefore no union to teach them. A young man working at a children's play centre shamefacedly admitted that he enjoyed the work and found it rewarding, but complained that it was not a man's job.

The average Glaswegian believes his city to be an independent universe and passionately resents any necessity to relate to the alien elsewhere. Curiously, this documentary suffered from the same limitations and failed to relate events within Glasgow to those outside it.

Celia Brayfield

John Higgins meets Riccardo Chailly, who is bringing the Concertgebouw to London for the Proms

Disciplined romantic

After completing the run of performances of *La cenerentola* at Salzburg (surely the most enjoyable of the operas at this summer's festival), Riccardo Chailly has been with the Concertgebouw on a brief European tour before the Amsterdam season opens in the last week of September, when he officially takes over the title of Music Director from Bernard Haitink.

Orchestra and music director elect arrive in London this week for a pair of Proms. The first is on Friday and goes out on BBC2 as well as Radio 3. The second half is occupied by Bruckner's Symphony No 3, which is pretty familiar territory for both the Concertgebouw and for Chailly. Mozart's Piano Concerto K459, with Radu Lupu as soloist, may be the piece which puts to the test the new association between Chailly and the Concertgebouw. His advance comment was that he admired Lupu above all for the "crystalline purity of his playing" and that his own Mozart "may be in the Josef Krips tradition".

Chailly's first concert with the Concertgebouw was in 1985 and the programme was not exactly mainstream: Petrucci, Bussetti, Berio. "I didn't realize how much I was being tested out, then. The Concertgebouw players elect their own music director and they are particularly keen on the clarity of the beat given by the conductor."

"The first approach did not come until I had worked with them another three or four times, and again it was not an obvious programme: Gershwin, Poulenc. They voted on three occasions and the final ballot was between two conductors, both Italian. No, I am not going to tell you who the other was."

Chailly, aged 35, half ruefully admits to being the oldest of the Concertgebouw's young directors. Both Haitink and Van Beinum arrived at a more tender age. But the pleasure at being the first non-Dutchman in the post is obvious. He lacks little in experience: his father is a composer and son Riccardo was conducting opera by the time he was 19.

But the extrovert image of his twenties has now given way to something much more serious; the flowing locks and beard, which at one time made him look like Puccini's Rodolfo, have now been neatly trimmed, so that he could easily play Sharpless if required. The eyes remain as blue and as penetrating as ever.

He must be one of the few among the new generation of Italian conductors to have studied with both Muti and Abbado. In 1968 he took piano under Muti, although this was a strictly supplementary course. Abbado was the real mentor and his interpretation of *Cenerentola* remains a very clear memory. "Claudio came to *Cenerentola* at the time of purification of Rossini, when the cleaning up of the scores, especially by Zedda, was paramount. "Now all that has been achieved I think



Serious: Riccardo Chailly, new music director of the Amsterdam Concertgebouw, has packed musical experience into his 35 years

we can be a little less strict and perhaps more theatrical. If there is a tenor to hand who can deliver three top Cs in rapid succession then let him have them."

Covent Garden's next sight of Chailly, only his third visit, will be in 1992 with *Le Comte Ory* as part of a Rossini season and the likelihood of Arraiza in the title role.

Part of the reason for the rarity of his visits is Chailly's extraordinary loyalty to whatever orchestra and opera house he is associated with. This month sees the release from Decca of Brahms's Symphony No 1 (421 295-2) and Tchaikovsky's Maifred Symphony (421 441-2) with the Concertgebouw. Schumann, Bruckner and more Brahms are to follow. And September brings

Puccini's *Manon Lescaut* with the Bologna Opera House Orchestra and Chorus, plus Te Kanawa and Carreras (421 426-2).

Since Chailly's arrival as artistic director in 1986, Bologna has been transformed. It has been re-established as one of Italy's leading houses. Asked what his achievement has been over the first two years, he answers: "To make things work. I think we have the most stable house in the country. We have discipline, we start on time and, I am proud to say, not a single performance has been cancelled."

He could have added the advent of opera recordings, one of the things every house looks to its conductors to provide. Before

Chailly, Bologna scarcely figured: a *Favaria*, an *Anna Bolena* and that was about it. *Macbeth* came first—when is London to see the film version of that recording?—and a *Lespre Siciliani* is to follow *Manon Lescaut*.

Amsterdam may benefit from the Bologna connection, but first its ears may well be turned to Zemlinsky. Chailly's current hero, "I have a late romantic nature and Zemlinsky is the hero of the *Spatromantik*, the great bridge between Mahler and Schoenberg. People have tried to divert attention away from his work, but I want to restore it to the repertoire. I forecast that, by the year 2000, Zemlinsky will be as accepted as Mahler is today."

Holly Hill reports from New York on a summer full of encouraging signs and reasons for optimism for the future of theatre in America

New World's new life

Foreigners and local naysayers proclaim the sick state of American theatre. Granted that we have serious problems, grant also that there are serious individuals and institutions working, with notable successes, to solve them.

Every summer, at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center in Connecticut, Artistic Director Lloyd Richards and a complement of outstanding directors, dramatists, actors and technicians, create stage readings of 12 plays and two screenplays, selected as the most promising from more than a thousand works submitted. Three out of the four which I saw this year were enriching.

As to the fulfilment of promise: this year alone, former O'Neill Conference playwrights David Henry Hwang won the Tony (for *M. Butterfly*), John Patrick Shanley took the Best Original Screenplay Oscar (for *Moonstruck*), and August Wilson won his third New York Drama Critics Circle Best Play citation for his third Broadway play, all of which were first aired in Connecticut.

Next stop was the PepsiCo Summerfare in Purchase, New York, for two events that added to a season already enhanced by foreign imports from Peter Brook, Ingmar Bergman, Tadeusz Kantor and Dublin's Gate Theatre. France's Compagnie Pandora yielded a riveting 95 minutes with *Elvire Jouvet 40*, based upon seven lessons on playing Elvire in Molière's *Don Juan*, given by Louis Jouvet in 1940, and conceived and directed as a theatre piece by Brigitte Jacques.

Imagine, if you will, John Barton working on, say, the first

AMERICAN THEATRE

Isabella-Angelo scene in *Measure for Measure* and guiding an initially unfocused actress into a virtuoso Isabella. Now translate that into French and you have Philippe Clément's commanding Jouvet and Maria de Medeiros's chrysalid Elvire.

Summerfare also presented the first international performance of *Away*, by young author Michael Gow (whose first play was done in 1982 at the Australian National Playwrights Conference, modelled on the O'Neill's). Superbly directed, designed and acted by the Sydney Theatre Company, *Away* is vivid, humorous, poignant theatre.

Gow tells no less than eight stories—one for each of his finely drawn characters—interlocked by family and school relationships, by shifting positions in Australian society in the late Sixties, and by a allegory gracefully framed by Shakespearean excerpts.

In Massachusetts, the Berkshire Theatre Festival celebrated its 60th Anniversary Season with the world premiere of James Frawley's *Tussocks*. The Samson sojourn of Robert Louis Stevenson (called Tussocks, "the teller of tales" by the natives) is presented as both romantic adventure and domestic drama.

Though never dull, at present George Schaefer's production is unbalanced by Julie Harris's forceful Mrs Stevenson, opposite a bland actor as the poet-novelist; the ambitious play needs focus.

Back in Manhattan, Ron Miller's *Checkmates* (Forty-Sixth Street Theatre) contrasts successful wedlock begun in the 1940s by a couple who pull together (Ruby Dee and Paul Winfield) and a 1980s deadlock between aspiring Yuppies (Denzel Washington and Marsha Jackson) too self- and career-centred to listen or to give.

Both couples have extra problems because they are black, but the play transcends race in this portrayal of pre- and post-war Women's Lib marriage. The root question of who is going to perform the role of nurturing homemaker is urgent in a work showing the consequences when home is where the heart is not.

Off Broadway, people were getting in line at 7am for tickets distributed 11 hours later for *Much Ado about Nothing* in Central Park, and there was a Monday night full house at the Second Stage for *The Film Society*. Set in a South African British boy's school in 1970, Jon Robin Bartz's drama showed the school mouldering on its centennial: "Have you seen the swimming pool lately? It looks like a bloody science experiment."

Two youthful teachers—one whose only care is exasperated films and the other with liberal views—two conservative administrators, a female teacher and a patriarchal struggle for territory, and the irascible teacher—who was beautifully played by Nathan Lane—struggles to find his soul in a piquant play that shows us a great deal about white life in South Africa and indeed about human weaknesses, but without indulgence in moralizing.



American Australians: Rosemary Harris and Steven Vidler in Michael Gow's *Away*, seen at Summerfare

Hesitant Haydn

CONCERT

ECO/Tate
Albert Hall

It was only a short while ago that Jeffrey Tate was a darling of the musical and critical professions and could do no wrong. No longer, it seems, for he and the English Chamber Orchestra have lately received some lukewarm reviews, taking them to task in the South Bank Schubert and Britten series, for instance, for lack of imagination and even shoddiness.

This Promenade concert might not have been that bad, but when it came to the real test, it was hardly that good either.

The main challenge lay not in Bernstein's "Candide" Overture—a nice acknowledgement, crisply dispatched, of its composer's 70th birthday—and neither was it presented by two rather more profound works, in each of which the ECO was partnered by an excellent and influential soloist. It was Haydn who brought the difficulties and the chief disappoint-

ment in performance, with his Symphony No 101, "The Clock". Admittedly there were some impressive features in Tate's reading of this piece—the well-chosen, quickish pace of the Menuet—but the performance ultimately failed to convey the kind of spontaneous excitement or, in the tick-tocking Andante, the bland humour which the symphony requires.

The playing was sometimes inexact, though even that would have mattered less, had Tate combined his care for blend with some lively articulation. Put crudely, it needed more guts, less good manners, and (dare one add) a more reliable pulse, to check the orchestra.

Mozart's A Major Piano Concerto, K488, received a lyrical and refined account, with Stephen Hough, clean in tone and execution, alive to the subtle nuances of phrasing and dynamics. The ECO generally responded well to his sense of the work's spaciousness, as they did to the nostalgia radiantly realized in Roberto Alexander's singing of Barber's poignant setting of James Agee's lines, *Knoxville: Summer of 1915*.

Stephen Pettitt

OPERA

Composer vindicated

Otello
Teatro Rossini, Pesaro

Rossini's *Otello* is a problem: its libretto is a laughable travesty of Shakespeare, yet it contains some of the composer's finest music. Cassio has been written out, Iago is Desdemona's spurned suitor, and the handkerchief is replaced by an unaddressed love letter; but there are some beautiful ensembles and a masterly, forward-looking last act whose dramatic momentum hardly falters.

The *Otello* that opened the Rossini Opera Festival in Pesaro demonstrated why the work was so popular last century, when it was a favourite *cavallo di battaglia* of the greatest singers of the day. June Anderson's Desdemona had everything one could possibly ask: warm limpid tone that remained unfailingly beautiful even under the fiercest pressure, the technique to execute hair-raising coloratura with consummate ease, and a vivid stage presence.

Quite unlike the barnstorming type of singer who treats vocal display as an end in itself, Anderson has a miraculous ability to embellish the vocal line lavishly as a means of inflecting the musical phrase to heightened expressive effect. Rossini must have been cheering in his grave!

He would surely also have applauded Chris Merritt's eloquent declamation of Ouello's recitatives, his honeyed *mezza* voice, and his moving portrayal of a vulnerable spirit descending into despair, but would have shuddered at his gleaming top notes: Rossini had much gentler sounds in mind when he composed.

He once attended a performance of *Otello* in which the tenor Tamberlick interpolated a high C sharp, sung in chest voice, at the end of his duet with Iago. Anecdote has it that when the singer next visited the composer, the latter told his servant: "Show him, tell him to hang up his C sharp with his coat and take it away when he leaves."

Merritt is a singer in the Tamberlick mould, which raises an important question: can Rossini's music make its intended effect when it was written for a lighter, more graceful vocal style than any tenor now adopts? Merritt's top notes are thrilling to modern ears, and the agility with which his dark, muscular voice copes with florid music is impressive; but it is often ungainly and rarely beautiful.

The part of Rodrigo was written for the legendary Giovanni David, and the mere contemplation of it would induce vertigo and panic in most tenors. Rockwell Blake sang it splendidly, sustaining the tessitura with little strain and displaying admirable fluency and delicacy in fast passages (although he, too, became stentorian above the stage). In this *Otello* Rodrigo plays a far larger part than Iago—yet another tenor—who was capably sung but hamfully acted by Ezio Di Cesare.

John Pritchard conducted a lovingly shaped account of the score, giving the countless wind solos space to breathe and make their mark. He never attempted to force purely lyrical music to sound falsely dramatic, but wipped up plenty of sound and fury for the big families. The RA1 Turin Orchestra responded with more feeling than finesse.

As designer, Pier Luigi Pizzi provided sparse sets evocative of *quattrocento* Venice, where the action is laid throughout. As director, he extracted very specific characterizations from the principals—no mean achievement in such a stock cliché opera—and made the implausible action as credible as possible. He even managed to turn the first act finale, which on the printed page looks almost unstageable in its silliness, into a gripping piece of theatre.

Nigel Jamieson

RENAISSANCE SHAKESPEARE
at the Phoenix
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"Tam Hoskyns is a heart-touching Rosalind" FT
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CONCERT
ECO/Tate
Albert Hall
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the Taming of the Shrew
RSC
Barbican Theatre 01 638 8891
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Red Arrows may change air routine

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

The Red Arrows were considering changing their planned routine for next week's Farnborough show as all-party pressure mounted last night to bring military display flying under the same rules as those governing civilian air shows.

The Red Arrows' display involves their making two passes over the crowd. Although their manoeuvres are not like those of the Italian acrobatic team which crashed at Ramstein killing 47 spectators, they had planned to arrive in formation from behind the heads of the crowd and then disperse at the end of the show in all directions with some of the Hawk jets again flying over the spectators.

Such manoeuvres are outlawed by civilian regulations. A Civil Aviation Authority document known as CAP 403 written in 1982 and laying

A pilot who buzzed 90,000 spectators at a Michael Jackson concert in Leeds was being sought yesterday by the Civil Aviation Authority. If caught the pilot faces fines and a life ban. CAA rules make it illegal for a pilot to fly below 3,000ft over an event with more than 1,000 spectators without permission.

down rules for the control of flying displays states: "Pilots should be specifically reminded that they should not fly over public enclosures or car parks or make turns towards them."

The document also says: "Military participants are not subject to civil flying regulations", and adds: "The military clearance for some formation display teams may also permit flight towards or over the public enclosures".

Organizers of air shows where military aircraft are taking part are warned: "Flight over the crowd should only be permitted if it is an essential part of a military formation display and then only if the aircraft are in climbing flight above 500 feet when over the crowd."

A number of MPs expressed their concern at the lack of regulatory control on military aircraft after *The Times's*

exposure of the anomalies between military and civilian regulations.

The MPs will be seeking to have the CAA Regulations amended. Those will have the force of law from January 1.

The draft regulations now include a new clause which the CAA say in a letter of consultation sent to all interested parties, has been added "to show clearly that the provisions of Article 52A do not apply to members of Her Majesty's forces or foreign military pilots whilst acting in the course of duty."

That is because of NATO-wide opposition to civil "interference" in their own control of aerobically displays.

Mr Robert McCrindle, Conservative MP for Brentwood and Ongar, said that he would try to launch a debate on the loophole before the new legislation was passed.

He added: "In the meantime the Farnborough authorities would be well advised to cancel any intention they may have had of flying over the spectators at Farnborough and I would like to see all military aircraft forbidden from flying near the crowds."

Mr Martin O'Neill, Labour's spokesman on defence, led calls for the new regulations to be in place before the Farnborough Air Show began.

No final decision has yet been taken on what routine the Red Arrows will perform at the show.

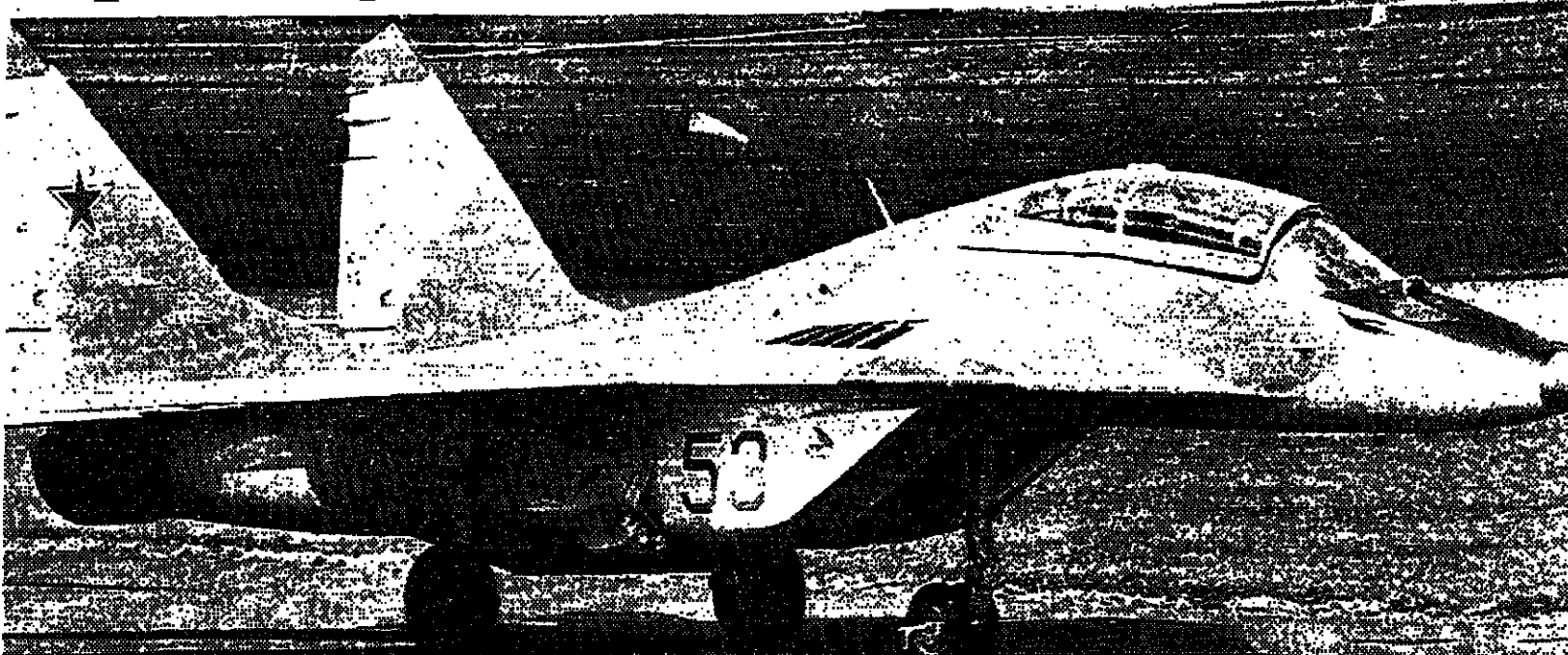
An RAF spokesman said that it would be difficult to change the planned routine so close to the show because of the difficulty involved in training the pilots for a completely new set of manoeuvres in time.

The leader of the Red Arrows said last night that airshows should not be banned. Squadron leader Tim Miller said: "The British public enjoy their air shows and there are more shows than ever before."

Safety was the main feature uppermost in his mind when the Red Arrows based at RAF Scampton, near Lincoln, were preparing for displays.

The RAF said: "Our rules are just as tight as those governing civilian air shows."

Special guests arrive for Farnborough



A MiG29 arriving at Farnborough for next week's air show, above, and three of the Russian pilots who will be taking part. (Pictures: Peter Trievnor)



By Harvey Elliott

The world's largest aircraft thundered over the villages of Hampshire yesterday carrying spares and equipment for Russia's latest MiG 29 fighters which will be taking part in the Farnborough air show.

The enormous Antonov 124 transport, with a wing span of 240 feet 5½ inches — 45 feet wider than the Boeing 747 — and known in NATO by the code name Condor, is normally used to ferry tanks, tractors, bridge girders, earth movers and even complete SS20 missiles around the Soviet Union. But

yesterday the aircraft formed the advance party for the big Russian presence at Farnborough during which Soviet aircraft manufacturers hope to interest Third World nations to buy their products.

The MiG 29s, which followed the AN 124 into the airfield, escorted by two RAF Tornados from RAF Coningsby, Lincolnshire, made an impressive entrance with an impromptu aerobically display including a formation high-speed pass above the runway and a perfect loop, before joining the RAF pilots and show organizers in a congratulatory hand-

shake. Wing Commander Euan Black, aged 42, the first man to welcome Soviet fighter aircraft to Britain, said of the meeting: "I simply said: 'Welcome to UK air space, we will escort you from here to Farnborough'."

The Russians also revealed that they were aware of the controversy surrounding safety at air shows in the wake of the Ramstein disaster.

Mr Anatoly Krotchur, chief test pilot with the aircraft makers, Mikoyan, and the first to land in England, arrived with the pledge: "We consider safety to be the most im-

portant aspect of all." Now, like all other participants in the show, they will have to convince the organizers that they will abide by the rules and that their display is safe.

After landing the Russian pilots were given a "welcome to the West" display by British, French and American pilots showing off the capabilities of some of the jets which the MiGs are designed to match.

The Russians watched as the Mirage 2000, Rafal, F18 and F16 — some using the latest "fly-by-wire" technology — rolled and looped deliberately to invoke their envy.

Turks say 150,000 Kurds wait to cross border



Continued from page 1

families, by allowing in their men," Mr Ozal said.

A different impression of the status of the Kurdish refugees was given by the Defence Minister, Mr Ercan Vuralhan, who said that no decision had been made to let the refugees stay.

Mr Vuralhan told the national daily *Cumhuriyet*: "If you take all the people along the Iraqi border into Turkey, you would upset the balance in the Middle East."

The country's military-led National Security Council is expected to meet in the next few days to consider the implications of the influx.

The Prime Minister's statement followed unofficial estimates by Turkish army officers along the 90-mile border that the number of Iraqi Kurdish refugees waiting to enter Turkey had risen by about half to some 150,000 over the previous 24 hours.

Indicating the degree of Turkey's anxiety, it was announced in Ankara that Mr

Nuzhet Kandemir, the Under Secretary of State in the Foreign Ministry, had left for an urgent mission to Baghdad.

High level sources in the Ministry said Mr Kandemir would also go to Tehran.

Some reports in the Turkish press said Iran had closed its borders to the refugees from Iraq, even though it provided the Kurdish nationalists with military aid over the past eight years of the Gulf War.

Ankara's decision to offer asylum caused relief among Kurdish spokesmen.

Post strike today

Continued from page 1

pay throughout the country, breaching a national pay agreement.

When asked whether he was concerned that the action could lead to the Government ending the 1981 Telecommunications Act — protecting the Post Office monopoly for letters costing less than £1 — he said his members would rather work in a competitive market than accept the monopoly as a no-strike agreement.

He added: "In many re-

spects the monopoly is a figment of people's imagination and it might be the case that the sooner we dispense with it the better."

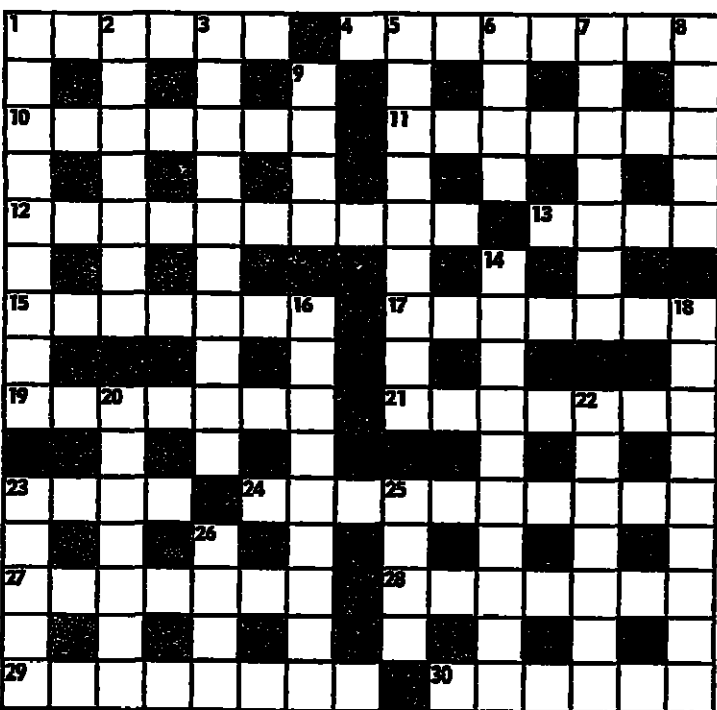
Private postal firms are anxious to profit from the dispute if the Government did relax the monopoly. Mr Alan Jones, managing director of TNT Express UK Limited, said his company had applied for a competitive licence from the Department of Trade and Industry which would require new legislation to alter the 1981 Act.

Since the precise nature of the ship's chemicals is not known, Mrs Bottomley was able to tell the Italians that they could not land it.

Mr Simon Hughes, SDLP environment spokesman, called for co-operation to ensure the vessel reached a safe destination. "We should have agreed and implemented EEC-wide waste control legislation many years ago," he said.

The Government has been repeatedly warned in the past seven years that Britain is being portrayed as "the dustbin of Europe" because of inadequate laws to deal with dangerous waste.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,762



ACROSS

- In the Pyrenees he's said to lie in the sun (6).
- A wartime hero's alternative name for General Grant (8).
- European man carrying educational journal (7).
- A stone of fish (7).
- In two minds about broadcasting "Batman" live (10).
- Vessel coming through entrance to lock (4).
- Ensnared and beats up captured agent (7).
- Enough for Cardinal Newman, this dance? (7).
- It grows when rudeness initially intimidates (7).
- Being wearied, rode foolishly into retreating crowd (7).
- About to grow old in prison (4).
- Pop rode him recklessly in the circus (10).
- Way to back a king? It's novel for an absolutist (7).
- Primitive types of church people accepting the King James Bible (7).
- Eg Billie's periods of recreation (8).
- Rejected in school, a turbulent boy becomes ruthless (6).

DOWN

- Pompous old boy upset adhesive, swamping front of book (9).
- Like sodium chlorate, this clue is! (7).
- Peacekeepers have quarters, practicable though not desirable (10).
- Dig up bed in most peculiar way (9).
- Lively schoolboy's starting to snoot (4).
- He hopes to have the choice at the top (7).
- A sword for poets to lift, we hear (5).
- Spring finds us in good health (4).
- Quiet nobleman Verdi represented as a collector of gems (5).
- Thus Pliny's first chronicle, lacking nothing in fallacious reasoning (9).
- By arresting one member, girl almost identifies the plant (9).
- Keen to catch a great bird (7).
- Our sole cleaner — a down-trodden person (7).
- Round door fastener (5).
- Old northerner caught in trap (4).
- The sort to incite the French to leave (4).

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

- GLIM**
a. Twilight
b. To glance at
c. To shave one's head
- FARSANG**
a. Renowned, celebrated
b. Congealed blood
c. A Persian mile
- ONOMASTIC**
a. To do with names
b. An acoustic resin
c. Single inverted commas
- FILIPENDULOUS**
a. Sagging or drooping
b. Hanging by a thread
c. The drop-wort

Answers on page 16, column 1

Solution to Puzzle No 17,761

1. DOWN
2. ACROSS
3. DOWN
4. ACROSS
5. DOWN
6. ACROSS
7. DOWN
8. ACROSS
9. DOWN
10. ACROSS
11. DOWN
12. ACROSS
13. DOWN
14. ACROSS
15. DOWN
16. ACROSS
17. DOWN
18. ACROSS
19. DOWN
20. ACROSS
21. DOWN
22. ACROSS
23. DOWN
24. ACROSS
25. DOWN
26. ACROSS

WEATHER

South-east England will be cloudy with some rain early, with sunny spells spreading from the west to the extreme south-east by mid-afternoon. Northern and western regions will be bright early with sunny spells through the day. Scattered showers most frequent in western Scotland. Thicker cloud will bring more general rain to the south-west by evening. Outlook: widespread rain.

ABROAD

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Ajaccio	20	20	20	
Algeria	28	28	28	
Alexandria	28	28	28	
Amman	28	28	28	
Amsterdam	18	18	18	
Antwerp	18	18	18	
Arnhem	18	18	18	
Batavia	28	28	28	
Bombay	30	30	30	
Buenos Aires	28	28	28	
Calcutta	30	30	30	
Canton	28	28	28	
Cebu	28	28	28	
Colon	28	28	28	
Hankow	28	28	28	
Hong Kong	28	28	28	
Kobe	28	28	28	
London	18	18	18	
Lyons	18	18	18	
Manila	28	28	28	
Medan	28	28	28	
Meppen	18	18	18	
Moscow	18	18	18	
Mumbai	30	30	30	
Nagasaki	28	28	28	
Nanking	28	28	28	
Norfolk	18	18	18	
Osaka	28	28	28	
Paris	18	18	18	
Peking	28	28	28	
Perth	18	18	18	
Portsmouth	18	18	18	
Rangoon	28	28	28	
Reims	18	18	18	
Rome	18	18	18	
Singapore	28	28	28	
Sourabaya	28	28	28	
Taipei	28	28	28	
Tientsin	28	28	28	
Tokyo	28	28	28	
Toronto	18	18	18	
Yokohama	28	28	28	

AROUND BRITAIN

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Cardiff	18	18	18	
Edinburgh	18	18	18	
Exeter	18	18	18	
Gloucester	18	18	18	
Leeds	18	18	18	
London	18	18	18	
Manchester	18	18	18	
Newcastle	18	18	18	
Nottingham	18	18	18	
Sheffield	18	18	18	
Sunderland	18	18	18	
Swansea	18	18	18	
Torquay	18	18	18	
Wolverhampton	18	18	18	
Wrexham	18	18	18	

AM



PM



LIGHTING-UP TIME

London 6.19 pm to 5.43 am
Bristol 6.20 pm to 5.44 am
Edinburgh 6.21 pm to 5.45 am
Manchester 6.22 pm to 5.46 am
Perthshire 6.23 pm to 5.47 am

YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, far; r, rain; s, sun.

LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 19C (66F); min 6pm to 6am, 12C (54F). Humidity: 6pm, 60 per cent. Rain: 5.44 pm to 5.47 am. Sun: 5.47 am to 6.19 pm. Bar: mean sea level, 601.13 millibars, falling (1.000 millibars = 29.92 in).

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 17C (63F); min 6pm to 6am, 11C (52F). Rain: 2.44 pm to 5.46 pm. Sun: 5.46 pm to 6.22 pm. Bar: 101.1.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Monday: Highest day temp: Heathrow Airport, west London, 21C (70F); lowest day temp: Cape Wrath, northern Scotland, 12C (54F); highest night temp: Orkney, 15C (59F); lowest night temp: Selly, 12.2F.

TOWER BRIDGE

Tower Bridge will be closed at the following times today: 6pm, 6.30pm and 10pm.

NOON TODAY

Information supplied by Met Office

THE POUND

Country	Bank	Rate
Australia	Bank	2.17
Austria	Bank	2.19
Belgium	Bank	2.19
Canada	Bank	2.17
Denmark	Bank	2.17
France	Bank	2.17
Germany	Bank	2.17
Greece	Bank	2.17
Holland	Bank	2.17
Italy	Bank	2.17
Japan	Bank	2.17
Norway	Bank	2.17
Portugal	Bank	2.17
Spain	Bank	2.17
Sweden	Bank	2.17
Switzerland	Bank	2.17
USA	Bank	2.17
Yugoslavia	Bank	2.17

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.

Latest Price Index: 106.7 (July)

London: The FT index closed down 15.5 at 1405.5

MARKETS	THE POUND
FT 30 Share 1409.9 (-15.5)	US dollar 1.6905 (-0.0005)
FT-SE 100 1754.8 (-15.9)	W German mark 3.1562 (+0.0143)
USM (Datastream) 158.18 (-3.04)	Trade-weighted 75.8 (+0.2)

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

Late rush to pay BP instalment

There was a last-minute rush by BP shareholders to beat yesterday's deadline for payment of the second instalment on shares issued by the Government at the end of last year. The Treasury said it was too early to say how many had missed the deadline.

By the end of last week roughly a third of the 300,000 shareholders had not paid the 105p due. But the National Westminster Bank Registrar's Department said the number had dropped during the week-end.

The Treasury said late payers would have at least a few days' grace.

Key to prices, page 20

Bredero jump

Bredero Properties, the retail development company which came to the market two years ago, had a buoyant first half, helped by the sale of St Andrew's Place in Aberdeen for £3.5 million. Pre-tax profit jumped 62 per cent to £1.93 million, and earnings per share rose 59 per cent to 7.8p. The dividend was increased by 0.3p to 2p net.

Tempos, page 20

STOCK MARKETS

New York	Dow Jones	2041.96 (+0.53)
Tokyo	Nikkei Average	27511.65 (+132.55)
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	2439.55 (-25.28)
Amsterdam	Gen	263.8 (+0.8)
Sydney	AO	1579.1 (+10.0)
Frankfurt	Commerzbank	1465.8 (+15.2)
Brussels	Generale	n/a
Paris	CAC	347.6 (+0.5)
Zurich	SKA Gen	470.8 (-1.2)

London:	FT-30 Share	1409.9 (-15.5)
	FT-100	1754.8 (-15.9)
	Gold Mines	197.2 (-2.9)
	Fixed Interest	96.85 (-0.01)
	FT Govt Secs	88.72 (-0.11)

Recent issues Page 20
Closing prices Page 23

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:	Sharp & Fisher	305p (+87p)
	AGB Research	2134p (+9p)

FALLS:

	Vale & Valor	399 1/2 (-26p)
	Brent Walker	347 1/2 (-23p)
	LandLeis	388 1/2 (-23p)
	WSEL	407 1/2 (-22p)
	Berkeley Group	282 1/2 (-14p)
	Calor Group	351 1/2 (-16p)
	Rehage	418 1/2 (-11p)
	United Newspapers	388 1/2 (-10p)
	Read Intl	400 1/2 (-11p)
	Anglia Securities	424 1/2 (-13p)
	Parker Knoll 'A'	805p (-20p)
	Pearson	695 1/2 (-17p)
	Morgan Crucible	218p (-19p)
	DRG	425 1/2 (-21p)
	Rank Organisation	683 1/2 (-15p)
	Western Motor	580 1/2 (-18p)
	BPE	262p (-10 1/2p)
	Blue Circle	417 1/2 (-11p)

CLOSING PRICES

Bergins	23651
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INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base:	12%
3-month interbank:	12 1/2%
3-month bill:	11 3/4%
buying rate:	11 3/4%
US Prime Rate:	10%
Federal Funds:	8 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bill:	7.31-7.30%
30-year bond:	9 1/4-9 1/2%

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£: \$1.6905	£: \$1.6905
£: DM3.1562	£: DM3.1562
£: SfrF1.5775	£: SfrF1.5775
£: FF7.3650	£: FF7.3650
£: Yen227.58	£: Yen227.58
£: Index: 75.8	£: Index: 75.8
ECU £0.656721	SDR £2n/a

GOLD

London Fixing:	\$427.75
close \$428.50-\$429.00	(£253.50-254.00)
New York:	\$428.20-\$428.70

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Oct):	pm \$14.55 bbl
Denotes latest trading price	

THE TIMES

STOCK WATCH

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Mecca facing opposition to £700m bid

By Michael Tate, Deputy City Editor

Mr Michael Guthrie, chairman of Mecca Leisure, is facing mounting criticism from some of his own shareholders as he pursues his ambitious £700 million takeover of the Pleasurama casinos to leisure parks group.

Growing numbers of investors in Mecca, the bingo to Warner holidays group, capitalised at only £185 million, are beginning to doubt the wisdom of continuing with the campaign. Many are thought to be reluctant to underwrite any cash alternative that Mecca may consider to its existing all-share offer.

They have become particularly edgy since the recent 130-point slide in the stock market, which has undermined both the Mecca and

Pleasurama share prices. If the mood of despondency lasts, Mr Guthrie will need to work hard to convince his shareholders to back the bid, the argument goes.

At Scottish Amicable, which speaks for about 3 per cent of both Mecca and Pleasurama, Mr Robert Elliott believes the bid is "as full as we're likely to get." And in his view, even at this level it will prove "very difficult to underwrite."

This view is echoed privately by other leading investors, and underlined by the Pleasurama share price, which, at 214p last night, remains 13p adrift of the 227p Mecca share swap valuation.

Some say Mr Guthrie should have scrapped the whole idea after failing to persuade Pleasurama shareholders

to abandon the Hard Rock takeover, as he had hinted. They believe the Mecca chairman has lost credibility.

But the Mecca came last night pointed out that the bid was "still in its early days" and insisted it was confident about the outcome. The group believes the stock market fall has worked in its favour.

Analysts say there are two ways of looking at the effect of the market fall. On the one hand, Mecca should not need to find quite so much cash, but the effect on sentiment is to make investors less inclined to underwrite.

One option Mecca could consider is finding a willing buyer for part of the Pleasurama business, although Mr Guthrie's offer document indicated he had clear ideas for running all the divisions.

Comment, page 21

Equities slide on base rate fear despite steadier pound

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Pessimism over prospects for the economy and fear of higher base rates hit share prices yesterday, in spite of a steadier performance from sterling.

Dealers said that fund managers had returned from their holiday break with little enthusiasm for either equities or gilts.

The FT-SE 100 index, which last week dropped by 73.6 points, fell by 15.9 points to 1,754.8 yesterday. Gilt closed about a quarter of a point lower.

With no updated data due for the economy until Friday's figures for official reserves, and no recent information on overheating pressures in the economy until the August retail sales and producer price figures on September 12, dealers said that the main focus of interest would be on sterling's performance.

The major question-mark

is on the currency," said Dr Gerard Lyons, economist at SBCI-Lavory Mills. "People don't see any scope for improvement in either the gilt or equity markets in the present environment."

Both sterling and the dollar gained ground yesterday, as the mark ran into profit-taking.

The pound closed fractionally lower against the United States currency at \$1.6905 but gained 1.5 pence to close at

Markets 22

DM3.1562 against the mark.

The sterling index rose by 0.2 points to 75.8. The dollar edged up by almost a penny to DM1.8670.

In another day of low turnover in the stock market, albeit above the poor levels of last week, market operators were again gloomy about pros-

pects, with some seeing no significant upturn in business for the rest of the year. Final money supply data from the Bank of England confirmed last month's strong increase, with M4 up by 7 per cent on a year earlier, M3 by 20.6 per cent and M4 by 17.4 per cent.

Figures released in Washington had little impact on the markets. The US index of leading indicators fell by 0.8 per cent last month, after an increase of 1.4 per cent in June. In May the index fell by 0.7 per cent. US factory orders fell by 3.5 per cent last month, the biggest drop for 18 months. However, excluding defence orders, the drop was 0.7 per cent, in comparison with a 2.9 per cent rise in June.

Analysts said that the main interest in the American markets was on Friday's employment report, which will give data for August.

GrandMet IDG bid will be referred to Irish commission

By Colin Campbell

Grand Metropolitan's latest bid for Irish Distillers is to be referred to Ireland's Fair Trade Commission, Mr Albert Reynolds, the Irish Industry Minister, said in Dublin yesterday.

Though his decision follows similar action adopted at the time of the original May 30 bid, the Minister added that there were ramifications of the London Takeover Panel's decision to allow Grand Metropolitan to proceed with its IR400p (338.98p) a share offer via GC&C Brands that needed to be examined. "I look out

this bid as a new bid, as a new offer, so as far as I am concerned that changes the rules," he said.

"If I were to accept the decision made by the Takeover Panel (allowing GrandMet via GC&C Brands to proceed with an offer through under a different guise) ... I would be bound by the clock."

Mr Reynolds added that there was a vacuum between London and Dublin which needed to be examined, and that this could lead to Ireland setting up its own Takeover Panel in order that Irish

situations could be viewed with Irish eyes.

"While the Takeover Panel in London governs the Dublin stock exchange, we operate under a different statutory basis and in this situation it is my decision that matters, not the London Takeover Panel," Mr Reynolds added.

Unlike the London Takeover Panel he did not regard Grand Metropolitan's offer as part of the original bid.

Grand Metropolitan yesterday said that it had bought a further 630,000 Irish Distillers shares taking its holding from 5.06 per cent to 6.05 per cent.

BP honours takeover jobs pledge

By David Young
Energy Correspondent

BP, which earlier this year took over the Glasgow-based Britoil and promised that it would create rather than reduce jobs in Scotland, has placed an order for work on the Clyde which will provide more than 300 jobs in the next 10 months.

The order is for steel structures for the Amethyst field in

the southern sector of the North Sea. They will be the first to be totally remotely controlled from the shore.

All the construction and design work will be awarded to companies in Scotland, and the order announced yesterday will keep open the Clydebank yard where the Queen Mary, the Queen Elizabeth and the Queen Elizabeth 2 were built.

Although small by recent

North Sea standards the contract is a significant one for both Britoil, which is now run from Glasgow as a full BP subsidiary, and for the industry as a whole after the Piper Alpha disaster.

The Britoil order, announced yesterday in Glasgow, will involve building two unmanned platforms to be connected by pipeline to the British Gas Easington terminal in Humberside.

Small investors 'should accept BAe offer'

Rover's rebel comes to heel

By Rosemary Unsworth, Retail Affairs Correspondent

Mr Noel Falconer, the self-appointed champion of shareholders' rights who has led the fight for a better price for minority shareholders in Rover Group, is throwing in the towel - at least on behalf of the 60,000 or so who hold 0.2 per cent of the car company's equity.

Although Mr Falconer, a Manchester engineer, will not accept the £1 a share - he holds 6,620 shares - that British Aerospace is offering minority shareholders, he will recommend others take the offer. However, he will attend the meeting for minority shareholders at the Queen Elizabeth Conference Centre in London on September 22 and denounce Mr Graham Day, the Rover Group chairman, for taking a seat on the BAe board before the takeover is complete.

"But I cannot in all conscience advise little old ladies that they should not take

£1 a share now, rather than wait in the hope that they may get £2 a share later for their heirs. I am distressed about the way the Government has harmed us and will use the meeting to appeal against this mean and unworthy offer."

"The situation is anomalous for minority shareholders, as we would usually ask the Department of Trade and Industry to intervene - but in this case it is the majority shareholder," he said.

He was speaking after details of the scheme of arrangement for the acquisition of the balance of Rover Group shares by BAe were published. The £1 per share offer is worth £12.8 million and the share alternative consists of one new BAe share for every 4.93 minority shares. Rover's shares were suspended at 74p in July.

The two boards point out that the

proposals represent, at 100p, a 49 per cent premium to the middle-market price of 67p of Rover Group on February 29, the day before the announcement that BAe had gone into discussions with the Government over its 99.8 per cent stake in the group.

"This is good value compared to Rover Group's earnings or net assets, even after taking into account the cash injection of £547 million by the Government," says the document.

Rejection by Mr Falconer's fellow shareholders would cost them, as BAe has made it clear that, in the event of non-acceptance, it would compulsorily buy any outstanding shares at 2.7p each. Rover has set up a helpline for shareholders' questions. Dial 100 and ask for Rover Group Freephone, followed by the helpline desk.

Bid for Smallbone opens door to US



Furnishing friendship: Brian McGowan and Nigel Rudd (Photograph: Denzil McNeelance)

Williams offers £34m for kitchens

By Alexandra Jackson

Williams Holdings, the consumer, building products and engineering group, is offering £34.5 million for Smallbone, the kitchen and bedroom furniture manufacturer, in an agreed bid worth 500p a share.

Mr Nigel Rudd, chairman of Williams, pointed to the considerable potential for Smallbone in the United States. "They have barely scratched the surface there and we have the necessary financial strength to develop a business there. The potential is enormous." Smallbone has three showrooms in the US - in New York and Beverly Hills.

"With our existing businesses, such as Amtega conservatories, Swish curtain rails and blinds and Vi-Spring beds, we will be able to develop and market a broad portfolio of quality products," he added.

The deal values Smallbone on an historic exit p/e of 24.6 times on pretax profits of £2.1 million for the year to end-February on a full tax charge. But this drops to the high teens on a current basis, according to Mr Brian McGowan, the Williams managing director. "It will have no adverse effect on our 1989 earnings," he said.

Smallbone was established in 1980 and was floated on the USM in 1986 at 165p, valuing the group at around £9 million. Its net assets were worth £1.2 million at the end of 1987-88 but have since been boosted by a convertible rights issue in April which raised £2.95 million.

Williams reported pre-tax profits of £52.7 million in the half-year to end-June, up from £18.1 million in 1987. Sales advanced from £152.4 million to £400.5 million.

An interim dividend of 4p was declared, up by 30 per cent. A

Tempos 20

final payment of 6p is being recommended, making 10p (up 43 per cent).

Mr McGowan confirmed the group holds 3.9 per cent of Yale and Valor, the international locks and heating company, but would not comment on intentions.

Williams has just completed the bulk of the integration of Berger with Crown Paints. The £10 million cost of closing a Berger factory and transferring production to a Crown facility are being treated as part of the cost of acquisition.

ILG supports Sol Holidays in management buyout

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Mr Harry Goodman's International Leisure Group has helped organize a management buyout of Sol Holidays, a medium-sized packaged holidays operator with 2 per cent of the market.

Mr Goodman, who has criticized the takeover by Thomson Travel of Horizon's holiday interests, said: "ILG fully intends to support Sol in its aggressive growth plans."

Sol is expected soon to bring out its main brochure for next year and plans to announce a total capacity of 500,000 holidays, more than doubling its 1988 programme.

"We are pleased to support an aggressive and well-managed alternative to the diminishing number of independent tour operators and thereby to

provide the retailer with an alternative to the emerging and threatening monopoly of the Thomson-Horizon entity," Mr Goodman said.

The deal, for which ILG says it has arranged the financing, is for an undisclosed sum with Sol's owner, the Park Tower Hotel, Knightsbridge, London. The deal brings Sol benefits such as the use of ILG's computer link system for holiday bookings. ILG will also provide Sol with most of its aircraft seat needs.

It should help Sol meet the intensifying competition in package holidays where the operators most at risk are the medium-sized ones dealing in the mass rather than a specialist niche market.

But Sol will remain independent and autonomous, said ILG, which will have a minority stake of 20 per cent.

This means there should be no reason for a monopolies referral.

Thomson and Horizon together have almost 40 per cent of the package tours sector of the foreign holidays market. ILG, whose operations include Intasun, has just over a fifth.

Mr Jack Smith, president of the Association of British Travel Agents, is resigning his directorship of ILG Travel to join the Sol management team.

Six Sol managers are involved in the buyout, led by Mr Keith St. Clair, chairman, and Mr David Cockerton, chief executive.

Telfos doubles to record £1.9m interim

Telfos Holdings, which failed in its £31 million bid for Walker Runciman, yesterday turned in record interim pre-tax profits for the half year to June 30 and increased its half-time dividend from 2p to 3p.

Pre-tax profits rose from £1.04 million to £1.96 million on turnover up from £3.76 million to £10.35 million.

The profit advance largely stems from improved results at the engineering interests, but also from higher profits from investment activities and a £466,000 contribution from property dealing.

Telfos says it believes its 28.6 per cent holding in Walter Runciman "will prove a valuable investment."

The second half will benefit from the substantial engineering orders, the group adds.

The shares eased 3p to 165p.

Tempos, page 20

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Border Television shows pre-tax gain

Border Television, the Carlisle-based independent TV contractor, is to pay a final dividend of 1.05p a share, making 1.7p for the year to the end of April. Last time the payment was 1.4p. The station's pre-tax profits have increased from £503,000 to £716,000, before taking account of writing down the company's investment in Super Channel by £122,000. Earnings per share are 4.2p against 3.4p last time.

Border, which has criticized the flow of advertising revenue southward in the past, says that the prospects for this income remain uncertain, but there were encouraging signs. Programme production commissions already received justify the investment in new technology, the board adds.

London Finance slip

London Finance and Investment Group, which has stakes in Western Selection and NMC Investments, where the Saatchi brothers have control, has reported a fall in pre-tax profits from £301,000 to £287,000 in the first half of 1988. The directors blame the quieter stock market conditions. There was also an extraordinary loss of £340,000.

Offshoot sold by Siebe

Siebe, the controls and engineering group, has sold its British Gas and Oil Burners subsidiary for £711,000 in cash. The purchaser is Bray Technologies, the gas and electric heating specialist company, which is quoted on the Granville & Co over-the-counter market. In addition, Bray is repaying a £254,000 loan owed by British Gas and Oil Burners.

Monotype takes GBT

The Monotype Corporation is paying £1.6 million in new shares for the outstanding 24.9 per cent minority stake in GB Technologies, the maker of typesetting systems for the printing industry. Monotype, which itself makes laser-based typesetting systems, acquired its majority interest in GBT in July 1986, shortly after its USM debut. The move was almost a rescue and Monotype paid just £220,000 for its initial stake, based on performance targets.

These targets had all been met, said Mr John Holloway, the finance director, and the group was hopeful of export orders for GBT, particularly in the US. Management accounts suggest pre-tax profits from GBT of around £600,000 for the year to end-June.

Ryan Hotels trims losses

Ryan Hotels, the Irish hotel group, cut its losses by £542,000 (£460,414) to £169,000 in the six months to April, on a turnover, marginally down to £5.91 million. There was an operating profit of £12,000 against a loss of £123,000 last year. Ryan announced an interim dividend of 0.5p per share, unchanged from last year.

IJ Dewhurst up to £3.2m

IJ Dewhurst, the clothing manufacturer and one of Marks and Spencer's main suppliers, yesterday announced an increase in pre-tax profits to £3.22 million from £2.8 million, on sales up over 17 per cent to £41 million, in the six months to July 15. Earnings per share rose from 1.94p to 2.16p. An interim dividend of 0.27p, against 0.24p, was declared.

Triplex sells foundry

Triplex Lloyd, the engineering and foundry group, has agreed to sell an 11-acre site in Derby for £200,000. The site is the former Parker Foundry. Production was transferred to the Lloyd steel foundry in Burton-on-Trent in January. Triplex said the sale of similar surplus sites would generate almost £1.5 million in cash in the current year which ends next March.

The group has also placed an order with Glasstech of Ohio for the supply of glass-togethering equipment for its subsidiary Thermovitrine, a maker of double glazing which is based at Hyde in Cheshire. The equipment, which should be operational by early next year, will cost more than £1 million.

Glossy profits picture at Williams

The paint is not yet dry on Williams Holdings' recent handiwork, so it is not possible to display the effect that acquisitions had on the interim figures.

But since integrating and streamlining acquisitions is much of what Williams is about, such an exercise is relatively meaningless.

Suffice it to say that fully diluted earnings per share, before exceptional items, rose 25 per cent at the half-year stage. About £21 million, or two-thirds of the rise in profits, came from the international paints businesses, not part of Williams in the comparative period.

The integration of Crown and Berger is still under way, and the full benefits of the cost savings of up to £20 million a year will not come through until 1989.

The sale of unwanted bits of Berger has raised more than £100 million and there are further savings to be gained by squeezing working capital. So Williams will be ungearing even after paying for Smallbone and Newage Transmissions. This gives Williams plenty of scope to make cash acquisitions in a bear market.

Underlying trading is strong in all divisions both in Europe and the US, with record order books and widening margins.

In established operations such as Rawlplug and Swish, Williams continues to develop the business by launching new

products and investing in cost saving plants. The acquisition of Smallbone, although small, provides sound opportunities in the US. There is also scope for cross-fertilization of products and marketing techniques between Smallbone's kitchen, bedroom and bathroom ranges and Williams' existing conservatory, blind and beds businesses.

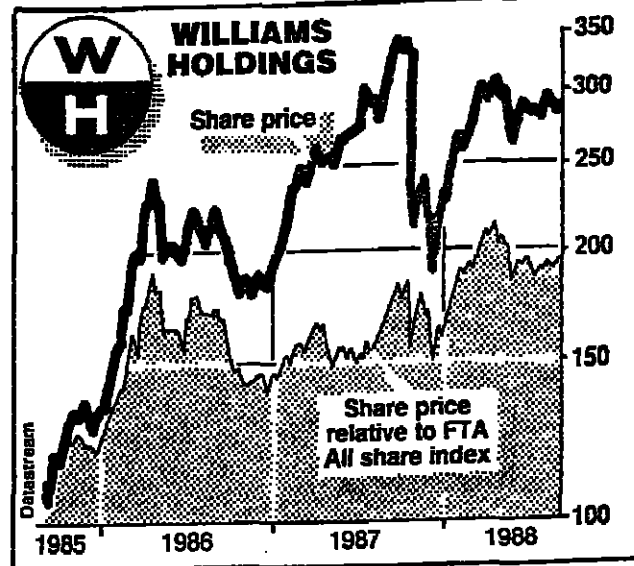
Smallbone adds to the prestigious brand names in the Williams fold, vastly undervalued in the balance sheet. If included they could add £1 billion of intangible assets. But whether it is prudent for Williams to show shareholders and predators alike the true value of its assets is quite another matter.

Williams should make £110 million this year, giving earnings per share of 26p. The rating is modest on 10.5 times 1988 earnings while the yield is healthy at nearly 5 per cent. There is also a probable 20 per cent increase in 1989 earnings to look forward to. The shares are well worth holding.

Telfos

Holdings

Do not expect Telfos Holdings, which has been gracious in defeat after its £31 million bid for Walter Runciman, to be out of the headlines for long.



In September, Telfos is likely to receive from Polly Peck about £13.25 million (£7.86 million) for its 20 per cent stake in Corporate Data Sciences, the US packaging manufacturer. Telfos originally bought the 20 per cent stake for \$6.5 million, and then granted Polly Peck an option over its holding.

Given that Polly Peck itself has a 31 per cent stake in CDS, and is anxious to step further into the world of US packaging, a useful capital sum should be coming Telfos's way in the weeks ahead.

In the meantime, Telfos, though defeated in its bid for Runciman, still has a 28.6 per cent stake which puts it in a commanding position either

older subsidiaries, but also because benefits are now starting to come through from the earlier acquisition of Hunslet (Holdings), a manufacturer of locomotives and forklift trucks.

Property dealing profits are more than likely to be here to stay as more surplus land assets are realized.

Year-end profits should easily top the £4 million mark compared with £1.72 million last time, without taking into account the exceptional profit, which puts the shares, at 165p, on a prospective rating of 9.7.

With other deals undoubtedly in the pipeline, and the rating hardly demanding, Telfos shares look to be worth a buy.

Bredero

Growth in consumer spending may be forecast as slowing, and the retail sector may be mature, but retail property developers, encouraged by soaring rents, are undeterred. Bredero Properties' Aberdeen projects illustrate how buoyant and profitable retail developments can be.

At St Andrew's Place in Aberdeen, all the group had to do was to put three properties together into a single site to create an asset worth £3.5 million, and generate a profit of £1 million. Bredero has retained entitlement to 80 per cent of the estimated £2 million development profit on

completion of the £8 million project 18 months hence.

Across the road, adjacent to a new 200,000 square foot John Lewis store which will open in the autumn of 1989, Bredero is also developing 275,000 square feet of retail space. Known as the Bon Accord Centre, 40 per cent of this space has already been let.

Unusually for a retail development, the rental income will equal the interest payments, even taking into account the latest rises in interest rates.

The proximity of the John Lewis store is expected to enhance the letting value of St Andrew's Place, which should itself be ready for occupation within 18 months. Consequently, tenants will not be signed up for St Andrew's Place until the John Lewis store opens.

But then Aberdeen is a very under-shopped city, and, unique in Britain, there is no competing shopping centre within 100 miles. However, some of the group's other retail developments have attractive features.

For instance, its 500,000 square foot centre in Glasgow will include the draw of a John Lewis store and its 143,000 square foot retail project in Fleet, Hampshire, is expected to have half its space pre-let.

The group's anticipated £5 million full-year profit puts the shares on a prospective multiple of 11.

Bid talks halt shares of Liberty

By Colin Campbell

The London and Johannesburg listings of all classes of shares in the Liberty Life Association of Africa and First Union General Investment Trust were suspended yesterday ahead of finalization of talks between the two companies which could, according to market sources, lead to Liberty making a full takeover bid for Fugit.

Fugit, a share investment company with a market capitalization of R600 million (£134.8 million) and in which Liberty took a controlling stake about 10 years ago, has traditionally traded below net worth. A Liberty buyout of the outstanding 15 per cent of Fugit capital looks likely.

Market sources also suggest that various rights issues involving the shares suspended yesterday might be in the wings. Liberty group, headed by Mr Donald Gordon, is due to address the Johannesburg Society of Investment Analysts today.

Bell bid closed

Bond Corporation Holdings now holds 64.54 per cent of the Bell Group, and has closed its bid. It will not acquire the outstanding scrip, but is liable to pay Aus\$176 million (£81.67 million) to the state government insurance commission of Western Australia for its 19.9 per cent stake.

Prices of BP and Gas shares hinge on outcome of inquiries

By David Young
Energy Correspondent

Movements in the share prices of Britain's two biggest energy companies - BP, the world's third largest integrated oil group, and British Gas, the largest integrated gas supplier in the world - are now dependent on the outcome of two separate Government inquiries.

The two companies, which have played a leading role in the Government's campaign to widen personal share ownership, are being valued on the basis of the two inquiries.

The City is hoping that by next week it will be given guidance on how the Government regards the 23 per cent holding in BP by the Kuwaiti government.

Both chairmen, Sir Peter Walters of BP and Sir Denis Rooke of British Gas, have made clear to the Government that such inquiries are costly in management time and are largely meaningless to the public.

In addition, the costs will have to be borne by the shareholders - members of the public encouraged to buy shares by the Government.

The City is also awaiting a Government decision on the British Gas industrial pricing policy.

The BP report is due at the Department of Trade and Industry tomorrow and the British Gas report was forwarded at the weekend. How-



'Unfair costs to shareholders': Sir Denis Rooke of Gas (left) and BP's Sir Peter Walters

ever, Lord Young, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, is in Australia, from where he will visit New Zealand. He is due back on September 14.

It is now likely that the BP report will be issued by Lord Young before Parliament reconvenes in mid-October, but the British Gas report will not be made public until business resumes in the House of Commons.

The acquisition of 23 per cent of BP by the Kuwaitis after the Government sale of its holding has been a constant

embarrassment to both BP and the Treasury.

The latest slump in stock market valuations of British companies may allow the Government to order a disposal by Kuwait of some of its holdings in BP in a more orderly fashion than in the past.

The Government's involvement in the stockbroking community through its privatization policies and the fees it can offer is limiting comment from the City.

However, one analyst said yesterday: "The BP share sale

was launched by the Government against the advice of the City and of BP. The Kuwait government got them off the hook and would not appreciate being cynically used."

"The world investment community wouldn't take kindly to being used a second time, and if the Government delays issuing the Monopolies and Mergers Commission report on the Kuwaiti holding in BP while the stock market is low it will have problems when it comes to selling its nuclear power stations to the public."

Confusion on Godwin suspension

By Martin Waller

Confusion surrounds the suspension at 80p on the Unlisted Securities Market yesterday of Godwin Warren Control Systems, the maker of car park electronic barriers, after two different announcements to the Stock Exchange.

An initial report that the shares were suspended "pending the outcome of negotiations for a substantial acquisition" was withdrawn by the company, which opted for a less informative explanation that dealings had been stopped "pending an announcement."

No director was available for comment at the company's Bristol head office, where staff were apparently unaware of the suspension.

A spokesman for the company's brokers, Foster & Braithwaite, refused to say if the initial announcement was actually incorrect, adding that the company would prefer to rely on the second statement. He said any further comment would be "inappropriate."

Sources close to the company said a major acquisition was unlikely, given the company's unimpressive trading history - in calendar 1986 it slipped into a £515,000 pre-tax loss.

But the sources did not rule out the possibility of a reverse takeover.

At the suspension price the company has a market worth of about £3.9 million.

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES		
BMS (118p)	119-1	119-1
Bucknell Aust (110p)	120	120
Bulker Gp (125p)	161-2	161-2
Cardwell Int	48	48
Chryse Gp (145p)	168	168
City Gate	313-3	313-3
Colony (150p)	148-3	148-3
Computer People	190	190
Conroy Pet	44-1	44-1
Eurofin Group (165p)	22-1	22-1
European Colour	143-20	143-20
Heritage (95p)	147	147
Herring Son (150p)	147	147
H-Tech Sports	112	112
Jackson Group	161-2	161-2
Unicat Group (115p)	80-2	80-2
Lowndes Van	134-2	134-2
Net Telecom	210-15	210-15
Palmerston Hlds	61	61
Rentaminster		

RIGHTS ISSUES

Amber N/P	17-1
Creston Lab N/P	7-40
FAH Gp N/P	7-4
Pleasure N/P	37-17
TACE N/P	8
Union S/N N/P	2-11
Wishaw N/P	2-11

Gulf Guarantee Trust Limited
Bankers

Gulf Guarantee Trust Ltd. is an authorised institution under the UK Banking Act 1987

Financial Highlights - for year ended 31 March 1988

	31 March 1988	31 March 1987
TOTAL ASSETS	34,524,999	34,724,785
Cash in hand and balances at banks	23,828,434	20,543,488
Advances	9,387,902	12,219,786
CURRENT LIABILITIES	23,564,281	23,014,879
Current, Deposit and other accounts	22,599,521	22,573,949
SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS	10,803,946	10,781,937
PROFIT Before Provisions	446,499	683,233
Provisions	(8,307)	(352,291)
PROFIT Before Tax	438,192	330,942
PROFIT After Tax	272,009	188,522
PROPOSED DIVIDEND	250,000	-

Gulf Guarantee Trust Ltd. is pleased to announce strong growth in profits in the year to 31 March, 1988 and its first dividend since the institution was restructured in 1982

Kamal Khan
Chairman

Dividend will be paid after 1st September 1988, at the Registered Office: Suite 22, 140 Park Lane, London W1Y 3AA. Tel: 01-493 1969. Fax: 01-409 1251. Telex: 25946.

مكاتب الشركة

Air Canada sweetens sell-off with forecast of £49m profit

Montreal (Reuter) - Air Canada, the government-owned airline that plans to sell a 45 per cent stake to the public, is predicting a profit of Can\$103 million (£49 million) for the year, despite earning only Can\$8 million in the period to end-June.

An airline spokesman said the profit figure, released in a preliminary prospectus, will be met through a traditionally strong third quarter and new routes to Europe in the autumn.

Underwriters say the final prospectus, which is expected to fix the price of the initial share offering at about Can\$10 a share, will be released next month.

But some analysts said Air Canada's earnings surge predicted for the second half of 1988 is far too high, especially compared with the Can\$46 million earned last year.

"At first glance, it's over-

priced," said Mr Pierre Sears of Geffrion Leclerc Inc. "Too many prospectuses are sold on the basis of future earnings that are never reached."

"The question mark remains as to whether or not the forecasted earnings can be achieved," said Mr Ted

Canada's two opposition parties say they will block the sale of state-run Air Canada if they win the next election. The Liberal and New Democratic parties said the offering will be cancelled if it is not completed before the election.

Larking of Alfred Bunting. "But everybody you talk to in the industry is looking for a very strong third quarter."

"If they are able to achieve those numbers (of Can\$100 million) then they will be earning around Can\$2 a share on a weighted basis."

Assuming an initial public

offering of about Can\$10 a share, Mr Larkin said that would give the airline a price/earnings ratio slightly lower than the multiple of seven that most Canadian airlines trade at now.

Air Canada says its earnings suffered during the first half of 1988 because of cheaper fares needed to recapture market share after it was hit by a 19-day strike in 1987.

"The promotional fares affected our yield badly," said Mr Pierre Jerome, a company spokesman. "But they succeeded, and our market share is now back at 35 per cent in Canada."

Air Canada flies about 80 per cent of its routes in North America. He said the additional Can\$95 million in projected earnings in the second half would come from the traditionally strong summer months and extra European routes.

Norsk Hydro's 1984 net profit of Nkr2.4 billion was the company's best-ever profit. It has large interests in light metals, fertilizers and the oil industry, with the latter representing about 20 per cent of earnings.

In 1986, low oil and chemical fertilizer prices resulted in a Nkr374 million loss - its first deficit since 1944.

Hydro reports record £158m

Oslo (Reuter) - Norsk Hydro, Norway's largest diversified company, said it expects 1988 to be a record year with a reduced dependence on oil.

Mr Torvild Aakvaag, the Norsk Hydro managing director, said: "I expect 1988 will be the best year ever. Our former dependence on oil has been reduced."

Mr Aakvaag also ruled out a merger with Saga Petroleum, Norway's largest private oil company. He said a merger with Saga, which was recently suggested by a senior oil and energy ministry official, was out of the question.

"Saga does not wish such co-

operation with Hydro and this is therefore not a relevant issue," he said.

Norsk Hydro announced a record first-half net profit of Nkr1.84 billion (£158.07 million) against Nkr1.05 billion in the corresponding period of 1987.

Referring to Norsk Hydro's lower reliance on oil, Mr Aakvaag said: "A couple of years ago the current level of oil prices would have been a catastrophe for the company. This is no longer so."

The first-half profits, which rose by 75 per cent on the comparable period the year before, had soared on im-

proved aluminium prices and petrochemical earnings.

But the 51 per cent state-owned company is likely to see a weaker third quarter due to a seasonal drop in demand for products like gas and fertilizers.

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Rising home sales lift Matsushita to £229m

Tokyo (Reuter) - Strong Japanese demand has pushed up Matsushita Electric Industrial's April-June group net profits by 40 per cent.

Group net profit rose to ¥51.8 billion (£229 million) from ¥37.1 billion a year earlier, the company said.

"The gains were achieved in a climate which saw expan-

sion of Japan's economy as a result of higher consumer spending, but also marked ongoing external difficulties such as the yen's high exchange value," it added.

Domestic sales rose 14 per cent compared with the year-earlier quarter to ¥798.9 billion, while overseas sales grew 4 per cent to ¥520.5 billion.

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Sharpe & Fisher hopes for £50m from Sandfords sale

By Alexandra Jackson

Sharpe & Fisher, the building supplies and do-it-yourself retailer, is putting Sandfords, its DIY business, up for sale.

Sandfords, the country's eighth largest DIY group, in an industry dominated by B&Q, Texas Homecare and Payless, could fetch at least £50 million and may attract a Continental buyer.

Mr Charles Fisher, chief executive of Sharpe & Fisher, said: "Sandfords has been a phenomenal success, reporting 40 per cent compound growth. But as one of the last regional companies, we do not

have the financial resources to develop it into a national chain.

"There is further growth in the DIY market and by selling now, we can maximize Sandfords' value for our shareholders and hope to secure a safe future for its employees.

"Given the interest shown in the business over the years, we thought it best to treat the sale openly," he added.

Sandfords operates from 15 outlets averaging 35,000 sq ft in the South and South-west of England, and has plans to open a further four. In the half year to end-June, pretax profits, helped by mild weather

and improved operating efficiencies, were £1.6 million, up from £954,000 last year.

In the whole of 1987, Sandfords made £2.5 million on sales of £34.9 million. Net margins stand at 8.2 per cent.

Mr Fisher plans to retain the freeholds of the seven properties owned as well as £8 million of the proceeds. This he believes is sufficient to develop the building supplies business organically and by acquisition.

The proceeds of the sale will be distributed to shareholders after a reorganization of Sharpe & Fisher. Investors will receive a share in the

remaining business and a cash payment from the disposal to be treated as a capital gain.

Market commentators estimate Sandfords should fetch a premium price of up to £50 million, suggesting an exit p/y of about 20 times.

Sharpe's interim figures showed pretax profits up from £1.9 million to £2.8 million in the six months to end-June on sales up from £35.1 million to £41.9 million. The interim dividend was held at 1p

pending a re-examination of the dividend policy at the year-end as future payments will be influenced by prospects for the remaining business.

Corah sells division to Courtaulds for £7.5m

Courtaulds, the textiles group, has bought the sock division of Corah, the Marks and Spencer supplier, for about £7.5 million cash.

The division made losses after interest and before tax of £44,000 in calendar 1987 on turnover of £15.3 million. The purchase is by the Courtaulds Clothing Brands subsidiary, which makes socks under the Wolsey and Rowley Group names.

The division's Leicester operation will be transferred to Courtaulds' existing operation there, enabling a large number of jobs at that business to be saved, said Courtaulds.

Plan approved

Shareholders in the Central & Sheerwood group have approved the reconstruction which sees an increase in its equity capital, and involves a £3.5 million loan from Mr Robert Maxwell's Pergamon Holdings to its engineering businesses. Central & Sheerwood is acquiring property interests from the Robert Fraser Group, which is subscribing for 29.9 per cent of the company.

£5m project

Kentish Properties, a specialist in residential developments, is investing £5 million in three, mainly commercial projects in Tower Hamlets, East London. The company owns two other large-scale residential investments: Baywell's Wharf, Docklands, which will accommodate 320 flats, and the Fairfield Work Factory, Bow, a development of 672 flats and houses.

HK funding

National Home Loans Corporation, the independent mortgage lender, yesterday signed a \$90 million (£53.1 million) short-term note purchase facility in Hong Kong. Citicorp International, the arrangers, said it is the first time a British company has borrowed from the Asia-Pacific markets to fund its domestic operations.

Baile buy

Food Industries, 50 per cent owners of Baile Foods, is buying the other half from Express Dairy's MacCormac Products division for around £1.85 million, satisfied by the issue of 1 million shares. Baile, a joint venture between MacCormac and Baileboro Co-op, made Ir£718,000 (£609,921) pre-tax in 1987.

Petrofina fails

Petrofina, the Belgian oil group, failed to achieve a quorum of shareholders at an extraordinary general meeting called to approve a one-for-10 free share issue. Petrofina announced the issue on August 12. An extraordinary meeting planned for last April was postponed for the same reason.

Property deal

Inoco has sold a freehold office property in New Malden, Surrey, and a long leasehold office property in South-east London, for a total of £12.5 million. The consideration represents a surplus of £1.8m over the book value of the properties.

Reed sale

Reed International has completed the sale of North American Paper Group to the Canadian subsidiary of Japan's Daishowa Paper for Can\$594 (£284 million) in cash.

COMMENT

Barlow Clowes, time for pretence is over

It becomes more and more difficult for the Government to minimize its own role in the collapse of Barlow Clowes. Fresh documentary evidence unearthed by *The Times* shows that a number of grave problems existed in 1985 and these were well known to the Department of Trade and Industry at the highest level. Indeed, a letter written by a DTI official makes clear that the Secretary of State inclined to the view in the spring of 1985 that a licence should be refused to Barlow Clowes.

relied upon," says the letter of April 1985.

Later, a licence was granted under the auspices of a new secretary of state. But luckless investors who trusted their money to Barlow Clowes thereafter can legitimately ask how the DTI monitoring failed to prevent the irregularities which contributed to the collapse. The DTI can hardly pretend it was unaware of the background which suggests that if ever a firm needed careful scrutiny, then it was Barlow Clowes.

Mecca must fight

Mecca Leisure's cheeky bid for Pleasurama, a company roughly three times its own size, was never going to be a bed of roses. Yesterday there was growing evidence that a number of key fund managers are not at all certain that it is a good idea. And since they may be called upon to underwrite a cash alternative, Mecca faces an uphill task.

Developments like this are a far cry from the heady days before October last year, when David and Goliath bids were frequent affairs and, seemingly, the more aggressive and daring the concept, the more the City supported it.

This means that Mecca has to satisfy the waverers on a number of points. It must dispel the image that Mecca needs the deal rather more than Pleasurama needs Mecca.

It has to answer the problem of the dilution in earnings likely to arise if the bid can be successfully fought.

Sound value in property

On the simple and simplistic view that what goes up must come down, shares in property companies ought to be looking vulnerable. Over the past 12 months, which of course includes the October market crash, property unit trusts and direct property investment have shown a clean pair of heels to equities or gilts. With interest rates at 12 per cent and still headed north, it would be easy to think the property bubble is about to burst. Leaving aside residential property, which tends to be financed on high levels of personal debt, this may not necessarily prove to be the case.

Unlike retail properties, which are directly affected by the Chancellor's unstated but real attempt to squeeze consumer spending, industrial property values can be expected to benefit from high levels of economic activity. The leading property companies have seen interest rate hikes like this before and tend to be soundly underpinned with fixed rate, long-term finance. They will therefore continue to benefit for some time to come from the significant rates of rental increase seen this year and last as reversions fall in.

Since the usual rent review pattern is five years, the leading investment

companies will be reaping the benefit of the recent boom conditions for some time. The lower yields seen this year suggest that shares in property investment companies such as Slough Estates and Land Securities in particular are selling at substantial discounts to likely year-end asset values. Morgan Grenfell estimates these at 35 and 29 per cent respectively. If interest rates have further to go, stocks like this appear to have admirable defensive qualities.

The rising cost of money is a far greater threat to property developers, unless like Rosehaugh and Greycoat, they have secured medium-term finance for their larger schemes.

It is property traders such as Mountleigh which will come under most severe scrutiny while investors await a clear indication of the impact of dear money on the speculative property market. In short, the quoted property sector should tend to polarize between the soundly financed investment and development companies on the one hand and the traders and those developers whose lines of finance are vulnerable to base rate changes on the other. But there is still excellent value in the sector for those willing to be choosy.

New NZ broadcasting plan

Wellington (AFP) — The New Zealand government said the country's television and radio services are to be deregulated, with the maximum level of foreign ownership raised from five per cent to 15 per cent.

Mr Richard Prebble, the Minister for State-owned Enterprises, said the level might be allowed to reach 25 per cent in the case of radio broadcasting, subject to ministerial approval.

Mr Prebble also said that the Broadcasting Corporation of New Zealand (BCNZ) would be restructured. From April next year, it will become two state-owned enterprises — one for television and one for radio. The moves are likely to open the way for more television and radio stations.

Mr Prebble said the state would remain involved in television and radio. Competition would improve the performance of public broadcasting, he added.

On cross-media ownership, Mr Prebble said all significant broadcasting mergers would be subject to the same scrutiny applied to newspapers by the Commerce Commission, the nation's corporate watchdog.

Noting that there was a shortage of English-language programmes worldwide, he said there was scope for state television to make considerable more New Zealand programmes for export sales.

and franchise commercial radio stations.

The present maximum allowable level of foreign ownership in broadcasting is five per cent, but there is no overseas investment in either state television or radio.

Although Television New Zealand (TVNZ) and Radio New Zealand (RNZ) are fully government-owned, there is some foreign investment in a small number of private radio stations.

TVNZ operates the country's two national television stations and faces competition for the first time next year when a private regional network is scheduled.

RNZ has two national non-commercial stations, and runs 32 of the 53 commercial stations in the country.

Verson wins US lawsuit

By Martin Waller

Verson International Group, the former Bronx Engineering Holdings, has won a significant lawsuit in the United States over its right to use the coil-processing technology owned by Allied Products Corporation, a US company.

The federal district court of Chicago has awarded Verson an injunction against Allied, paying the way for actions for damages both in the US courts and in Europe.

The dispute arises out of Allied's acquisition of Verson Allsteel Press, the former Verson parent, almost two years ago, the London-quoted company's access to technology and its exclusive right to use this outside the US and Canada.

The court ordered Allied to deliver the necessary technology to allow Verson to enter the high-speed coil processing equipment market. This complements the heavier products made by Bronx, into which Verson reversed in 1986.

Birmid raises stake to 8.3%

Birmid Qualcast, the lawn-mower to cooker company, has bought a 5 per cent stake in Ransomes Sims & Jefferies, the grass-cutting equipment producer, from FH Tomlin, the industrial holding group, thus raising its stake to 8.36 per cent.



Going for growth: Anthony Hawser of the Reject Shop

Reject Shop expands

The Reject Shop, which came to the Unlisted Securities Market in June and is capitalized at £14 million, will soon be opening its largest store.

The company, whose managing director is Mr Anthony Hawser, agreed to take a new 20-year lease on a former

Habitat unit at the Whitgift Centre in Croydon, Surrey, which is undergoing redevelopment.

The store offers a retail space of 17,500 sq ft and a 2,500 sq ft service area.

The Croydon store will open on November 1.

Improving Peek hits £2.4m at half-time

By Colin Campbell

Peek, the fast-growing electronics and technology group headed by Mr Kenneth Maud, has reported interim profits and shown a strong balance sheet which clearly demonstrates its transformation.

With the benefit of various US and British acquisitions, and helped by further growth from its organic activities, pretax profits for the six months to end-June turned out at £2.44 million on a £15.1 million turnover, compared with profits of £869,000 on a £5.2 million turnover previously.

Net earnings a share have doubled from 0.6p to 1.2p.

Peek is paying its first interim dividend — 0.3p a share.

In all of 1987 the dividend was 0.3p a share. When Peek acquired Dubliner in June this year, it forecast a full-year dividend of 1p share, a target which now looks likely to be beaten.

The group shows cash balances totalling £27 million. The board said this makes it well placed to exploit the various opportunities in its specialized and expanding fields of industrial automation, instrumentation and connectors.

The shares rose by 1p to 48p, at which level Peek has a market capitalization of £134.7 million.

Fergabrook rights and acquisition

By Wolfgang Münchau

Fergabrook, the USM-quoted distributor of toys and consumer products, is making a further acquisition despite a disappointing first half to June, when the company slumped £2.5 million into the red on a turnover of £5 million.

Fergabrook yesterday announced the purchase of Relaxstone, a holding company which owns Harlestone, a football manufacturer, in a share deal worth £2.4 million. Fergabrook also announced a rights issue to raise £2.6 million.

Mr Philip Harrison, Harlestone's chairman, and Mr Nicholas Condon, the finance

director, will join Fergabrook's board, following the acquisition.

In 1987, Harlestone achieved a £300,000 profit on a turnover of £5.8 million, but during the first four months this year, it made a £22,000 loss on £2 million turnover.

During the first half of this year, Fergabrook failed to uphold last year's performance when it made a profit after years of losses. There was an extraordinary item of £135,000 for closure costs of the company's cosmetics and toiletry business. The loss per share more than trebled, from 3.04p to 9.49p. Like last year there is no interim dividend.

Volvo profits dip 11% at half-way

Gothenburg (Reuters) — Volvo reported an 11 per cent drop in net profits for the first-half of 1988, slightly better than most analysts were predicting.

After a 32 per cent fall in first-quarter profits, blamed largely on a three-week strike in January, Volvo's second-quarter profits rose to NK£2.44 billion (£209.26 million) from NK£2.28 billion.

This buoyed half-year profits to NK£3.80 billion, compared with the most optimistic analysts' estimates of NK£3.7 billion.

"The greatest satisfaction is with our truck business, which has developed very strongly," said Mr Gunnar Johansson, Volvo managing director. Mr Johansson said lorry sales had

increased by 25 per cent in the first half of 1988 to a record NK£10.47 billion and the company is expanding its lorry capacity.

Group sales were 3 per cent higher at NK£45.76 billion. Volvo said its profits had been hurt by the lower dollar, as in the first quarter, although it gave no figures.

It estimated the strike by white-collar workers, which practically halted all production, had lost the company NK£1.1 billion in the first half.

Mr Claes Vikbald, an analyst of Warburg Securities, the broker, said: "It's a very good report. Trucks did even better than expected, compensating for the expected weaker performance of cars."

Raise your glass to investment

If you are nursing burned fingers from the stock market, let me tell you where you went wrong. You should have been investing in claret, all along. According to chartered accountant Alan Rayne, the nephew of property tycoon Max Rayne and managing director of Magnum Fine Wines which advises more than 150 clients on almost £1 million-worth of wine investment portfolios, the price of vintage Bordeaux has outperformed the FT-30 Share Index both at the peak of the bull market and since the October crash. Using as his starting point the "Bordeaux Index" monitored by *Decanter* magazine, which charts the prices realised at sales of classified growth wines throughout the vintage, he has done a few sums to equate it to the FT-30 Index. Giving the stock market index a base of 100 in 1978 — which is when the Bordeaux Index was launched — Rayne's graphs show that the FT-30 reached a peak of 373.6 last summer, while the BI was standing at 447.1. Then along came the crash and the FT-30 is now equivalent to 305.6. But the BI has gone from strength to strength. Last night it was standing at 505.18. "Fine wine increases in value by at least 15 per cent a year which means that if you lay down say, 30 cases, over a five-year period, you can sell half — for free," says Rayne.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Onward and upward

Rosalind Hill is a much sought-after lady. Everyone she works with seems to want to offer her a job. The 33-year-old accountancy wizard was first enticed away from the safety of Ernst & Whinney's corporate finance department last year to be seconded to the Schroder merchant bank. She apparently impressed the powers that be at the bank when she worked alongside them on

the flotation of Hoskyns, the computer services company, since swallowed up by Plessey. Now she has done it again. One of the Schroder clients, a computer distributor P & P, which itself came to the market last April — and where Prof Roland Smith is chairman — has poached her to become its group development director, putting her in charge of acquisitions.

Vintage year

The stock market crash may have dented the enthusiasm for champagne among Wall Streeters, but not so in London. According to figures from the Champagne Bureau, Britain is still the biggest export market for bubbly. In the first half of this year, 8.7

million bottles were drunk, a 12 per cent increase on last year. And that's more than the whole of the US — where consumption fell by 25 per cent to a mere 5.1 million bottles.

Figuring it out

It is good to know that great minds still think alike. Top economists polled by the newsletter *Blue Chip Economic Indicators* predict that the growth of the US economy will slow — in part because of higher interest rates. Most of *Blue Chip*'s 51 economists are going for 2.8 per cent growth this quarter and 3 per cent inflation by the end of the year. Norman Robertson at Mellon Bank in Pittsburgh is among those who expect a 6 per cent inflation rate come December. But he sees "absolutely no signs of anything much higher than that. Certainly not double digits."



Doctor in the market

Little did Mrs Thatcher know what she was starting when she floated British Telecom. A casualty doctor at Harlepool General Hospital made that share his first stock market investment and followed suit with every subsequent privatization, giving him a portfolio now worth about £9,000. And his stock market experiences now look set to transform his life, for Dr Abhay More, aged 37, is the brains behind *The Stock Exchange Game*, a board game on sale in the Stock Exchange shop and going into W H Smith stores this week. More knew the game was a sure-fire success when other casualty staff unit were clamouring to play it. "It started as a game I played by myself, wishing I had more shares than I really did," he says. "I pretended that I had £10,000 to invest and 'made' 35 per cent in a year. I started playing it with my friends in the hospital, which helped me iron out the rules." More, who travels to London on the night bus to promote his game, has already sold almost 2,000. "But I'm not into profit yet," he says. "Yet," being the operative word, I'm sure.

No wonder Wall Street gets in a tizzy when Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan has something big to say. At a recent meeting of the Economic Club of New York, he told his attentive audience: "I guess I should warn you — if I turn out to be particularly clear, you've probably misunderstood what I've said."

Carol Leonard

Cocoa-price threat puts talks at risk

By Colin Narborough

The Ivory Coast, the world's leading cocoa producer, has threatened to stay out of the price-stabilizing pact to be negotiated for the commodity, throwing the future of the new International Cocoa Agreement (ICA) into doubt.

The threat came from President Felix Houphouët-Boigny, the Ivorian leader.

World market prices are at a seven-year low as cocoa-growing nations prepare for pricing talks, to be held by the London-based International Cocoa Organization (Icoco) next Monday.

The ICA's current price support system, which sought to keep cocoa within an agreed price range, was suspended in March when producer and consumer members of Icoco

failed to agree on the way forward.

The Ivory Coast has withheld cocoa supplies from the world market for more than a year because of depressed prices.

M. Houphouët-Boigny has pledged that his country will never sell cut-price cocoa.

Three months cocoa was trading at about £825 per tonne in London yesterday, well below the £1,150 level Ivory Coast has been asking.

Mr Frieder Rottzoll, director of the West German Coffee Association, has called for the international pact on coffee export quotas not to be renewed when it expires in a year's time. If it is renewed, the producer countries' quotas should be revised, he said.

US buy for Hambros

Hambros, the merchant banking group, has bought Harry Roman & Co, a Los Angeles mergers and acquisitions company, for an undisclosed amount.

The move is part of Hambros' policy of building up an


international corporate finance network to help it carry out cross-border mergers and acquisitions.

Mr Harry Roman will remain as chairman of the company, which was founded in 1946.

New rates for Business Overdrafts.

With effect from 30 August 1988, the monthly rates of interest applicable to Business Overdrafts are as follows:

Previous Rate	New Rate	Typical A.P.R.
1.4%	1.5%	19.5%
1.3%	1.4%	18.1%
1.2%	1.3%	16.7%
1.1%	1.2%	15.3%



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108	43	On Corn	82	84	●	8
510	415	Sandwich	475	483	●	8
385	317	Smirn Danc	315	316	●	2
493	385	Saurat (Jett)	429	430	●	
190	135	Un Pace	156	155	●	
251	227	Urnes Walker	343	363	●	11

189	271	210	WCRS	208	217	● -7	5
115	633	433	WFO	580	597	-15	8
84	329	180	Wote	300	306	● -6	4
188	214	177	Washington (J)	197	200	-3	6
166	425	304	Wilmington	406	416	● -1	9
98	66	64	Wilmington, Conn	77	75	● -2	2

PROPERTY					
131	89	Allen Lon	115	118	-2
209	133	Arington Secs	141	146	-11
195	106	Alea	150	156	-8

14.7	280	210	Baker Farms	225	130		
28.0	460	333	Bacon (PI)	430	440	-8	19
29.5	720	585	Brayford	660	675	-23	16
13.6	351	247	B. Land (334)	305	301	-8	5
20.6	338	218	Benson	312	316	-2	15
17.2	373	178	Caro Co	250	265	-5	1

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14.0	255	208	Pancosman (Walter)	320	255	12.1
10.8	428	313	Tophink	390	405	7.5
11.6	190	108	Turnbull Scott	185	195	6.0
9.9						
6.9						
11.3						

SHOES LEATHER

95	80	Headlam Sang	77	84	-1	12
170	155	Lanning Noyworth	170	180	-5	-5
145	145	Pearson Lewis	150	150	0	14
205	200	Saunders & Fuller	230	240	-10	11
260	205	Stylian	290	310	-20	6

TEXTILES						
380	300	Adler Text	365	365	-7	12
285	225	Bohannon (J&B)	263	270	-5	8
110	110	Bohannon	110	110	0	7
63	34	Boyle	40	45	-2	7

154	68	55	Coran	73	76	-	1
301	305	289	Countdown (30)	309	311	-11	16
139	133	66	Countdown	118	123	-7	5
114	246	187	Dawson	200	202	-2	10
159	130	100	Drummond	114	118	-4	6
227	164	106	Foxes (John)	142	146	-4	4
118	205	165	Gaelic Broadband	193	203	-10	9
107	76	51	Harvey Prentiss	70	73	-3	0
	163	126	Hampster	154	169	-15	6
	279	170	Jerome (S)	258	268	-10	8

117	405	295	Leeds	326	348	-2	8
	142	110	Lester	122	126	5	8
131	84	68	Lykes (S)	73	78	5	9
144	370	250	MacKay (High)	295	315	20	9
109	57	41	Merton	49	52	3	9
	210	163	Pandora A	200	205	5	7
	81	62	Reabcut	73	74	-1	3
	171	144	SEET	168	147	21	3
	126	97	Small	109	112	-2	7
	120	90	Sundshaw (P)	98	108	10	13

212	167	Testard Jersey	163	193	8
585	412	Tomatoes	540	580	10
123	57	Tonal	89	101	5
53	25	West Trust	4	45	-3-
250	193	Worleyde	245	255	11

TOBACCOs

124	483	399	BAT (a)	439	281	+ +3	231
11.4	150	125	Carroll	179	130		
63.9	447	365	Rothmans 'B' (a)	413	415	-7	10

14.3
 56.4
 25.8
 39.2

● Ex dividend a Ex all b Forecast dividend
 payment passed f Price at suspension g Div
 yield exclude a special payment k Pre-merge

10.6 | share split & tax-free .. No significant

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Continued
from page 14

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We are a small and prestigious employment agency looking to expand our team. The individual we are seeking will have excellent listening skills, be able to match employee and employer needs and be a natural sales person with drive and self-motivation. In return we offer you the opportunity to develop in a career role with financial remuneration that is within your control. If you are a true professional then please call:

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Berkeley
Appointments
Mayfair House,
22-24 Bedford Street,
London W1W 7LJ

HUNTER & PARTNERS

PA/Secretary £12,000 + Benefits

Confident and experienced PA required to assist Partnership Secretary in all aspects of his dynamic position in this leading firm of Architects and Surveyors.

You will be involved in all aspects of Partnership policies, financial, administrative and personnel matters. There is plenty of scope for developing the role.

The right candidate will have excellent audio skills (shorthand, although an advantage is not essential), good organisational ability, flexibility to deal with a variety of demands at any one time and a flair for dealing with people.

In return, we are able to offer an excellent benefits package which includes a lunchbox allowance, non-contributory pension scheme and BUPA membership after a qualifying period.

Please send your CV to:
Bridget Shaw
Hunter & Partners
25 North Row, London W1R 1DJ

Or ring her on 01-493 8200

A Riverside Setting £11,000 — Interior design

Become part of a winning team. . . This fabulously successful, recently-quoted Design consultancy seeks an enthusiastic, self-assured individual to handle a key role in their interior design team. You are good under pressure, a natural communicator and eager to take on responsibility. Sound secretarial skills (audio preferred) and an organised approach are essential. Beautiful, listed building overlooking the Thames at Chelsea. Young, social environment. For details call 01-493 0713.

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MERRYWEATHER

PERSONNEL RELATED

Secretary to the Personnel Manager who is a good delegator and will train you in Personnel, including some initial interviewing. Shorthand essential. Age 20-25. N1 area.

REF: C/7459 SALARY £11,000.

A very interesting position as PA/Secretary to the Chairman of an Employee Benefits Consultancy, a full secretarial role with much client liaison and involvement in new legislation. Shorthand essential. EC2.

REF: C/7363 SALARY £13,000 + BENEFITS

Junior Audio/PA Secretary - £10,000 EC3

REF: C/7376

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Christine Hughes 01-480 7220

La Crème

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DON'T CRAWL ALONG WITH
THE CROWD

If you enjoy the variety of temporary work and have the skills and confidence to approach new challenges, get in the swim with a prestigious temporary team where you will be well respected and looked after. Phone Amanda Jackson on 01-491 1868 and get ahead of the tide.

OFFICIAL SPONSOR OF THE 1988 BRITISH OLYMPIC TEAM

01-491 1868

LEGAL SECRETARY

£12,000. W1. 18+ partner level, friendly 3 partner firm. Will consider any legal exp.

PA SECRETARY

£12,500. W1. 20+ PA to finance director lots of variety and involvement.

SHORTHAND SEC

£10,500. W1. 23+ 2 Managers of internet co seeks ec to organise their day. Good perks.

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CLAYMAN AGENCY

9-15 OXFORD STREET W1

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT

Basic £10-12K + Top Commission

Enthusiasm, energy, drive and the will to succeed are an integral part of this career opportunity. If you have a secretarial/admin background and want to realise your potential, join this truly professional agency. Full training and excellent prospects offered. Call Joan Thomas on 01-493 0383

MACKAY
for Secretaries

SECRETARY
ESTATE AGENTS

Friendly, enthusiastic and cheerful person for our busy office. Salary negotiable.

Apply: Tom Hooper,
Deputies & Co.,
93 Nightingale Lane,
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For sales positions engaged in security company commercial work - Wokingham St. W1. Mainly and security related. Excellent. Good W1 experience. Legal and W1 experience. Personal and W1 experience. Salary up to £11,000 negotiable.

Ring Mr Charles
835 4999.

PA to the Chief

£11,500 + excellent benefits

A capable early to mid 20's with good accurate typing and W1 exp needed to organise training courses for W1 W2 etc. involve planning, scheduling, booking hotels for candidates and doing all aspects of organisation. You need an eye for detail, a flexible attitude and you will show a supportive team.

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RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

21 Brunton Avenue, Highbury, N5

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We'll Broaden Your Horizons

Tokyo . . . La Paz . . . Washington . . . Singapore . . . Cairo . . . Canberra . . . as a Secretary in the Diplomatic Service, these are just some of the cities to which you could be posted. After about 2 years in Central London you could be sent anywhere around the world. It's an exciting, often unique role - with the opportunity of working at the centre of international events adding that extra career dimension.

A British citizen aged 18+, with at least 3 'O' levels (including English Language) and 3 years experience, you must have a minimum of 100 wpm shorthand plus 30

At home or abroad, you will enjoy a good career package including London starting salary of £8,639 rising to £9,929, plus an extra pay addition of £400, a skill supplement of £387 and proficiency allowances up to £1,292. In London, hostel accommodation can be arranged. Once overseas (aged 21+) you can look forward to free fully furnished accommodation plus an allowance to cover the extra cost of living where appropriate, and an allowance for language proficiency.

There will be opportunities to learn foreign languages and to transfer to the Executive grades on a salary scale to £11,819.

Opportunities also exist for shorthand typists. Academic qualifications and experience not essential.

For further details and application form please contact:

Secretarial Recruitment, Personnel Policy Department, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Room 07, 4 Central Buildings, Matthew Parker Street, London SW1H 9NW. Tel: 01-210 8135/8122.

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The French MD of a top international electronic components company situated near the French-Swiss border is looking for a graduate or A-level PA (English mother tongue) who has already worked in France, preferably for a large industrial company. He is a strong character and occasionally uses French shorthand.

You will also be working for the Personnel Director who is a warm professional man with a good sense of humour. Both men travel widely in France and in addition to normal secretarial duties you will frequently be consulted as an expert English-French linguist.

If you are confident about working in a totally French environment and would rather go skiing and explore the Jura than trek around Paris, please call Angela Mortimer Ltd - Age 25-40

Slide 50/60 + French shorthand

Fixed Office 629 9686

ANGELA MORTIMER

JOAN TREE
JOHN IN COMMUNICATIONS

Joan couldn't help but be impressed as he listened to Camille explaining to the client the need to adopt a more proactive stance to raise the company's investor relations profile. As he caught her eye Camille found herself speculating about the synergy the forthcoming merger would create.

It was all a far cry from her days in the typing pool. . .

If you have the right secretarial skills and have a rapport with the world of Public Relations, call Joan Tree in Covent Garden on 01-379 3515.

Put an end to commuting. . .

£12,000 — Surrey

Our client, a friendly, successful PR and Design consultancy, is relocating to Surrey (Farnham/Guildford) in July 89. They now seek a flexible self-starter to take on a co-ordinating role - based initially in their London office. 10% of your time will be taken up with secretarial duties (for 1 Director) and the rest will put your PR/Accounts experience to good use as you tackle office management, Personnel and accounts administration. An 'A' level education, 60 wpm typing and computer literacy essential. If you have an enquiring mind, call 01-493 0713.

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MERRYWEATHER

£15,500 ++
26-28

You love organising effectively, entertaining clients, which you would have to frequently, and using your initiative. It is an Assistant PA/Secretarial role for the MD of a major professional firm in St. James's. A levels, shorthand + WP.

01 439 7001 West End
01-377 8600 City

SECRETARIES PLUS

EDITORIAL SECRETARY
£9,666 pa

A secretary is required to work for three medical editors of the British Medical Journal. The work is varied and will include audio and copy typing and the processing of manuscripts. Candidates should be familiar with computers and word processors and have a good telephone manner.

Please apply in writing with full career details to: Ann Coyne, Personnel Officer, British Medical Association, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP.

PROMOTIONS CO W1
Package £11-15,000 aae

Specialising in supplying promotional personnel nationally requires office manager/promotions controller with good organisational + communication skills, ability to work under pressure + typ 50 wpm. Varied duties inc bookings, admin, loss of client contact. Previous recruitment/temp controlling exp helpful.

Call 402 1276

ITALIAN SPEAKING
SEC. £11K

Young, friendly, Italian speaking sec. with W.P. and perhaps a/h for this busy but friendly City Co. Good benefits.

Call Neave 488 1783
NEXT EMPLOYMENT.

SEC. BANKING
£12,500 Mort Sub.

A job with real interest helping set up this new dept in a major City Co. for a flexible, well organised sec with banking exp. Mid 20's, plus lots of initiative.

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Discover the fringe benefits
of the world's largest
management consultancy.

As you would expect of the world's largest and fastest growing management consultancy, Arthur Andersen is a pretty exceptional firm. Step inside our doors and take a lift to any one of our seven floors and you're soon conscious that Arthur Andersen has created a superb working environment.

Secretaries work with the latest Wang network technology which is built into the stylish, 'designer' furniture. Everywhere there is the hum of quiet efficiency . . . one secretary is organising a complex international itinerary for a Senior Partner . . . another, who specialises in recruitment, is organising a series of visits to top universities . . . another is helping to prepare a new 'graphics' presentation . . . and yet another secretary is sending an instant memo - via electronic mail - to a Manager in Chicago.

There is a very friendly, informal and fun atmosphere. One where secretaries can use their initiative, enjoy plenty of client contact and really contribute to our business rather than bash a keyboard all day (besides, there is a dedicated wp department for tackling lengthy reports and documents).

Flexitime also gives you the freedom to work the hours that suit you best. We work as a team, so you can arrange for others to provide cover for the occasional extended lunch break, late start or even early finish to the day. Alternatively, you can put in more hours and earn some extra overtime or add it to your holiday.

It all adds up to a great job with some very unexpected fringe benefits . . . Covent Garden is practically on our doorstep (a mere four minutes walk away), so there are a whole host of attractions which come with the job - shops, markets, restaurants, wine and cocktail bars, theatres, ballet and opera, dance studios, gymnasiums, boutiques, clubs and pubs.

Naturally, we do expect you to be good. We look for a good education, 60wpm typing, proven secretarial skills, strong administrative flair and a sense of style. In return though, we offer up to £13,000, a top quality training, ability-based promotion prospects, subsidised restaurant, special discounts at selected stores plus, of course, a unique range of 'fringe' benefits.

Want to know more? Then call Jayne Thomas on 01-438 3164.

Alternatively, send your cv to her at: Arthur Andersen & Co., Management Consultants, 2 Arundel Street, London WC2R 3LT.

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£8500-£9000

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This is a new chance to join the marketing days of this young, highly motivated company which produces commercial business videos. You will help in the production of their magazines and brochures and liaise with photographers and publishers. Slide 14/50

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A major US Investment House offering a great package (including mortgage subsidy) and the latest facilities. A leading role in a young and growing company. You will have a challenging and stimulating job. Lots of opportunity for promotion. Slide 74/40

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Our charity, a charitable organisation which funds scientific research is looking for a young secretary. You will help run the office and organise conferences. This is a really challenging and stimulating job. Lots of opportunity for promotion. Slide 74/40

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RECRUITMENT SPECIALISTS

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STOCKBROKING

£14,000 + 50% bonus

A leading city firm is looking for a professional secretary to work at director level. You will assist a senior figure who has overall control of the company's financial management. His role also encompasses such things as staff training and office refurbishment. Consequently, he is looking for someone to whom he can delegate and rely on totally to carry out tasks on his behalf.

You will need to be energetic and resourceful and have the ability to liaise effectively at many levels - a very important part of this role.

Sound secretarial skills are necessary. Age 25-30

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£12,000 plus free tickets

Official opening for a quick-thinking PA with excellent organisational skills. The high-profile MD of this world-famous company needs a right hand man. He travels extensively to the US and you'll be planning his itineraries: liaising with songwriters, talent scouts and VIPs in the Music business. First-class presentation, self-confidence and unflappable skills (30/50) essential. Fabulous West London offices with superb in-house cinema. Age 21+. For details call 01-402 1232.

Recruitment Consultants
to the Communications Industry

THE WORK SECTION

EDITORIAL SECRETARY
£9,666 pa

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Package £11-15,000 aae

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OPINION

Michael Dobbs

My television is confused. Only a short time ago it seemed to believe that the Ayatollah Khomeini was a bitter, relentless warmonger, but now when I turn it on it seems to be telling me that he and all Iranians have become devout men of peace. The snarls have disappeared, to be replaced by smiles and handshakes whenever a TV camera appears in the neighbourhood.

I've adjusted the colour tint and the horizontal hold, but that doesn't seem to help. The Ayatollah only turns pink. I seem to be viewing a Middle Eastern version of Alice's adventures *Through The Looking-Glass*, where everything has been turned back to front. Fanatical warriors now talk of nothing but peace. The users of chemical weapons denounce other users in ringing tones. The godfathers of the Lebanese kidnap-and-murder squads talk gently of their concern for the hostages.

Having run out of money for tanks, mortars and ammunition, the Iranians seem to have turned to one of the cheapest yet most effective weapons available to them — television.

Television news today mingles and twists perceptions and opinions to a degree which is difficult to measure, but which is nevertheless immense. Ask any terrorist. The IRA have recently switched their tactics to Britain. One body on the mainland, they say, is worth 10 in Northern Ireland because it is guaranteed greater media coverage.

Yet the use of television news for overtly political ends is not perhaps the greatest problem to struggle with as we prepare for the broadcasting revolution. At least the terrorists' dependence on publicity is well documented. Can we continue to be relaxed about the way television directs and potentially distorts our social consciences and values?

Ethiopian famine is not a new phenomenon. Yet combined with television footage, it gave an irresistible twist to our collective social conscience which resulted in Band Aid

and St Bob. Other charities suffered by comparison through their inability to provide equally compelling pictures. Is charity in future to depend on the photographic qualities rather than the intrinsic merits of the recipients?

TV can incite less charitable emotions. Most people would accept that news coverage of football and inner city riots helps spark off copycat violence. A televised Hungerford brought about instant changes in the gun law which almost certainly would not have happened without the impact of TV.

And with the creation of *Anger-ridden*, 24-hour global financial markets, the sight of panic rippling through Far Eastern stock exchanges is certain to cause a knock-on effect in Europe, which is transmitted to the United States and then on to the Far East... TV images tend to exaggerate all types of responses.

Even Mrs Thatcher is not immune. The unfortunate workers on the Piper Alpha oil rig were amongst the highest paid and presumably the best insured in the country, and Occidental Oil was quick to emphasize there would be generous compensation — a measure of comfort not usually available to victims of such a tragedy. Yet the accident happened in front of the television cameras, and the result was an outpouring of public sympathy and further funds, led by Mrs Thatcher with £1 million of taxpayers' money.

The question is not whether it was right to show sympathy for the victims, but whether that was the best use of £1 million of spare funds. Should it really have taken priority over heart operations for chronically sick children and

all the rest? Will all accident victims get such treatment?

Television news is about to undergo a revolution which will have an unknown and as yet largely unquestioned impact. With five and possibly six terrestrial channels, the increasing commercialization of ITN/BBC and the proliferation of independent news producers, we are about to see much greater variety among TV news programmes operating in an increasingly deregulated environment. In the press world, this has given rise to the "gutter" press and the tit-and-bum approach to news. If this happens on TV, as seems likely, what then of our social consciences, let alone our politics? Will we find ourselves giving generously to the cause of fallen Page Three boobies rather than Help the Aged? Will the BBC finally become a subsidiary of the ANC?

The Broadcasting White Paper meandering its way through the Government machine seems unlikely to confront these issues. In the meantime, I read that the Labour Party has plans to put its own programmes on the new TV outlets, which presumably means Neil Kinnock kissing more babies to the tune of Beethoven's "Ode to Joy".

We are about to enter an era of uncertainty in TV news. But that shouldn't encourage Douglas Hurd to increase it by further delaying the White Paper. He knows that heavy-handed bureaucratic guidelines are not a solution to maintaining standards. Since he is willing to trust the common sense of the people every four or five years at election time, he should trust it every night to choose between the news and views of a host of new TV outlets. It may not be perfect or guarantee balance, but then nor do elections. And after all, ordinary people have a better record of seeing through the pink ayatollahs than most politicians.

The author is a director of *Saschi & Saschi* and was formerly Chief of Staff at Conservative Central Office

Leaks that move prices

The manipulation of share prices by City PR firms is coming, belatedly some experts think, under Stock Exchange scrutiny

The Friday night run has become the Friday evening phone call — a casualty of the dispersal of Fleet Street. But the intention is the same. It is to get company information into the Sunday newspapers — information which is price-sensitive and therefore likely to move stock markets. As such it is illegal.

But the authorities, including the Stock Exchange, take little action. That is a scandal, says Peter Gummer, chairman of the Shandwick public relations group. "There are plenty of cowboys around and it is absolutely vital that there should be some form of regulation."

Time was, pre-Wapping, when a thrusting young city PR executive could call on three or more City editors — all within a radius of a few hundred yards. He would be unlucky if his news, hot from the boardrooms of selected clients, did not appear in one or other of the Sundays.

Now the PR man peddles his tips over the telephone. According to an experienced City editor, "They come on and say, 'I've got some wonderful news about XYZ company. Did you know they are about to do a deal with so and so?' Often it is not about companies at all. It's about arbitrageurs and speculators. Newspapers are being taken for a ride. Speculators are taking positions and trying to drum up support through the media."

Ian Raitt, who runs a medium-sized PR firm, Raitt Orr Associates, says, "This type of activity exists, but it is only one or two firms which do it on a regular basis. What happens is that a company wants to get its share price up in order to ward off predators. It calls in its PR firm to talk up the price. Or it may want to acquire another company. It is paying in part or in full with its own paper (shares). Again it needs the price up."

Such a bald account of the process suggests City editors are dumb. That is not true. But they are human. As a result of Fleet Street's dispersal they need PR input more than ever. That means good working relationships with financial PR firms. It does not take too subtle a PR man to insert a



Fair exchange: The surveillance department is reliably reported to be looking into abuses of price-sensitive material

'There are plenty of cowboys around and it is vital there is some form of regulation'

piece of "price-sensitive" information into some more mundane puffery.

The words "price-sensitive" are banded about wherever financial PR is discussed and as Susan Shaar, the Prudential group's press manager and chairman of the City and Financial Group of the Institute of Public Relations (IPR), points out, no one seems to know what they mean. "It is a grey area as to what is price-sensitive."

Technically, price-sensitive means anything which moves a share price on the Stock Exchange. One of a company's Continuing Obligations, made when its shares are listed, is to inform the exchange, before any third party, of price-sensitive information. If a company fails to abide by these Continuing Obligations, its shares can be unilaterally suspended by the exchange. But the last time that happened was four years ago.

On the Friday night run, the more

price-sensitive the information, the better. PR firms have access to company results, for example, well in advance of their announcement. When these details appear in Sunday newspapers there can be little comeback. Journalists are discreet. They protect and do not disclose their sources.

The Stock Exchange surveillance department is reliably reported to be looking into abuses of price-sensitive material by PR firms. The exchange itself refuses to confirm or deny this, but, given the difficulty of proof and the department's recent pressing need to investigate other, apparently more important financial intermediaries, sanctions against PR firms seem unlikely.

Shandwick's Peter Gummer thinks his profession should be regulated in the same way as stockbrokers. He says that when he first became concerned

about abuses in the industry four years ago, he proposed this should be done by the IPR or the Public Relations Consultants Association. But there was little response. Now he thinks the Stock Exchange should regulate both PR companies and their executives.

"A small company often only needs financial public relations when it is in trouble; when, for example, it finds itself on the wrong end of a takeover bid," he says. "It then needs to be able to go to the Stock Exchange and get a list of registered PR companies from which it can choose a reliable operator." He believes this list should be regularly policed, without the burden of proof that now exists. "There is not too much argument about which consultancies are involved in abuses."

Susan Shaar is sceptical about whether this would work. She says her experience is that "the leaky boats tend to come from other intermediaries, rather than through the PR channel". But she does believe the Stock Exchange should apply its existing sanctions more thoroughly. "Without sufficient prosecutions, the principles won't be seen to bite," she says.

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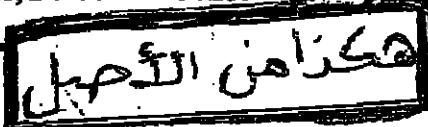
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Continued
from page 25

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Andrew Longmore assesses the state of F3000 following the Birmingham Super Prix fiasco

Formula in need of a new solution

The progressive sports-loving burghers of Birmingham might be forgiven for thinking that someone up there does not speak with a Midlands accent. While earlier this year, the city's dreams of staging an Olympic Games were ended by Manchester, on Monday their hard-won freedom to hold a F3000 Super Prix round the city centre was held up to ridicule on national television.

At one point, as Russell Spence was hoisted in his car by a trackside crane and the race leaders piled up behind the blockage like a motorway traffic jam, television viewers must have wondered if they were watching a motor race or an updated version of the Keystone Cops.

More seriously, a delay of two and a half hours to the main race, numerous incidents, in one of which David Hunt was lucky to emerge with minor injuries, endless arguments and the cancellation of the final two races of the Bank Holiday programme have called into question both the safety of the

circuit and the ability of the organizers to run the race.

Hunt's accident was part and parcel of street racing and there was no doubt that the original race had to be stopped. But there were two main criticisms of the officials thereafter: first that they did not get the track cleared quickly enough when the second race was blocked by three cars; second, that there was an unnecessary delay in getting the third race restarted. To be fair to the officials, all of them experienced, there were mitigating circumstances.

Spence should have got out of his car so that it could have been hauled out of the way and John Nicol, the clerk of the course, did ask the team managers if they would be willing to restart the race for the second time without the half-hour cooling-off period required under FISA regulations. But one team manager objected, so the crowd had to wait a further 40 minutes.

Despite the problems, the drivers and teams enjoy racing in Bir-

Major accidents in the last four Formula 3000 races:

MOMSA (June 26), lap 13: race halted after accident involving Giron (serious leg and back injuries) and Monti.
ENNA (July 17), lap 4: race stopped after a pile-up involving Moreno and Foitek.
BRANDS HATCH (Aug 20-21), qualifying: Foitek crashes, suffering serious leg and foot injuries; lap 24: race stopped after

collision between Moreno and Foitek; lap 1 of restarted race: race stopped after Foitek and Herbert (serious leg injuries) collide. Only six cars left for third start.

BIRMINGHAM (Aug 29), lap 2: race stopped after Hunt (concussion) overturns after hitting tyre barrier and brick wall; lap 2 of re-started race: race stopped after Spence, de Vries and Hydon involved in a spin.

mingham. They like the challenge and they like the atmosphere; they just don't like the bumps. "It's the bumpiness more than the narrowness of the circuit that is the problem," said John Wickham, manager of the Spirit Toms team.

But there are wider implications to consider in Monday's fiasco. For the second weekend in succession, a F3000 had to be stopped twice because of accidents. In the last four races, the red flag has had to be used five times. As yet, no-one has been killed but, at Brands Hatch last weekend, Johnny Herbert suffered appalling leg injuries. Where? Not at a corner, but on the straight. The

drivers themselves have admitted that, in the name of their sponsors and of personal fame and fortune, F3000 has become a rough-house.

"After Brands, I was ashamed of motor racing," said Mario Hyten, at 31 one of the more experienced drivers. "I was pushed onto the grass three times and afterwards I thought 'this is crazy'. The problem is that it has been allowed to go on for so long that everybody has to do it. You can't be the only gentleman on the track because you won't win anything. The rules are there; they just have to be applied."

On the day before the Super Prix, the drivers were called to a briefing

where they were told that FISA intended to crack down on dangerous driving. They were even warned that the licences of persistent offenders would be taken away. Whether that will improve the habits of young tyros fighting to get into Formula One and under pressure from their sponsors to do well remains to be seen.

This autumn the Birmingham City Council hope that a private members' bill will be passed in Parliament extending the festival for a third day and giving more flexibility to the organizers to extend racing if necessary. John Charlton, chairman of the council's road racing committee, thinks that the events of Monday should reinforce their case.

But, out of the confusion, no-one emerges with much credit — not the drivers, not the authorities, not the team managers. Indeed, motor racing as a whole seemed far more intent on looking after its own varied interests than in providing a worthy spectacle for the good people of Birmingham.

Conner chooses wing-sail design for Cup defence

By Barry Pickthall

With eight days remaining before the start of the America's Cup series off San Diego, Dennis Conner, the defending skipper, has chosen to race the wing-sailed catamaran developed by Dave Hubbard, the Little America's Cup designer.

The 108ft-tall articulating wing, which is stepped on a 60ft catamaran identical to one equipped with a more traditional narrow wing mast and a fully-battened mainsail, was all nine races during trials on the America's Cup course last week.

Initially, Conner said yesterday, "It's more like what I'm used to, and has more flexibility in that you can make last-minute mainsail changes. However, I was prepared to be convinced that the wing sail was the way to go — and the 'wing-nuts' convinced me."

Conner also confirmed that Tom Whidden and Peter Isler, his tactician and navigator when he won the Cup in Australia, would again be acting as his afterguard in the races against New Zealand's monohull.

Stung perhaps by the Gallup poll suggesting 63 per cent of Americans believe that the Cup defence in a catamaran is unfair, Conner countered with a testy statement yesterday, suggesting that the Cup is a design contest, not a match race.

He said that whatever is within the rules is fair. "Michael Fay, the chairman of the New Zealand challenge, rejected 12-metre yachts, staking his claim on the Deed of Gift alone. He ripped up the 12-metre class rules and threw the scraps in the faces of 20 challengers who had registered their intentions to race."

"The race started months ago in the design rooms and now it's time to get on the water and race to see who came up with the fastest boat."

"What disappoints me most is that Michael Fay thought he was going to get the Cup without a fight on the water. He dodged De Savary's challenge, he dodged Iain Murray (of Australia) and he thought we would be stunned by his sneak attack."

"Well, he won the first round and maybe the first five rounds, but ultimately we pulled ourselves off the mat. We aren't giving up and if he thinks the rules are unfair, he only has himself to blame."

The statement brought a swift response from the New Zealand camp, who reminded Conner that they were the first to challenge for the Cup. All the other challenges were issued later after the rescue of San Diego for a hypothetical event in 1991.

RUGBY UNION

Role of county ties under discussion

By David Hands

On the first competitive Saturday of the new season in England — that is, September 10, when the Courage Clubs Championship resumes operations — two parallel conferences will be held at Leicester University, both to do with the playing and the structure of the game.

One will be primarily concerned with administration, including finance and marketing; the other will involve coaches and selectors. The main theme will be competitive rugby (and the delegates should receive a reasonable sample of that when they attend the Leicester-Wesps match that day), though the coaching conference, which will involve the management of England's tour to Australia plus divisional coaches and selectors, will ponder defeat of the Australians this autumn among its objectives.

Among the papers to be presented to the administrators will be one by Geoff Cooke, the England manager; one by Bill Bishop, chairman of the Rugby Football Union (RFU) competitions sub-committee, and two more by representatives of the constituent bodies and the senior clubs. The latter will be given by Ken Phillips (Bedford), chairman of the Senior Clubs Association (SCA), which is particularly gratified that it has been included on the agenda.

At its annual meeting in the summer the SCA unanimously supported the RFU policy which emphasizes the role of the divisional championship in the playing pyramid. The association did, however, call for the RFU to give a guideline to clubs and players on playing priorities: "The RFU can no longer leave this decision to individual players and must give a positive lead," Phillips said.

The SCA acknowledges the importance of the county championship in the future development of the game; the question remains, at what level. Its reflections were echoed by a senior player when the London divisional squad met at Bisham Abbey last weekend, who suggested that the London selectors might care to give a lead by stating, categorically, that they would not be watching county matches this season but would concentrate instead on the club championship matches.

Those are the games on which aspiring players will major and which, in conjunction with the divisional championship and matches against the touring Australians, will provide the national selectors with the most valid information. Perhaps — though I am not optimistic — the club v county contest can be decently laid to rest.

Bentley at centre of challenge

By David Hands

It will be a busy start to the season for Wakefield this weekend; they contribute five players to the Yorkshire squad which plays Ulster at Ravenhill on Saturday and entertain Durham City on the same day. On Sunday, they travel south to defend their title in the 21st Harlequins-Lords' Taverners seven tournament at the Stoop Memorial Ground.

Yorkshire take a side including two internationals, Bentley and Harrison. Bentley, whose two caps have come on the wing, is chosen in his preferred position of centre alongside John Buckton, the Saracens centre, whose tour of Australia with England in the summer was so unluckily ended by injury.

The Harlequins sevens contains a splendidly cosmopolitan entry with teams from Scotland, Wales, France and the United States included. Wakefield are drawn in pool B, with Bristol the Lord's Taverners VII and Llanelli, winners last weekend of the Snelling sevens at Newport.

YORKSHIRE (v Ulster): R. Adamson (Wakefield); M. Harrison (Wakefield), captain; J. Buckton (Saracens); S. Burman (Sale); S. Townsend (Wakefield); G. Irving (Harrogate); M. Whitcombe (Sale); C. Haden (Wakefield); P. Bishop (Wakefield); S. Thompson (Wakefield); P. Beckett (Liverpool/St Helens); J. Chapman (Wakefield).

South side depleted by sevens

By Alan Lorimer

The South of Scotland selectors have named what they call their Scottish Borders side to play British Columbia at the Greenyards on September 8, the first of a series of matches. With the fixture of this season, the selectors have relied on last year's form and included eight full caps in the team, which will be led by Scotland's captain, Gary Callander.

Two players who had been selected will be missing. Iwan Tukalo damaged a hamstring muscle in Sunday's GHK Sevens, at Old Anniesland, and Iain Paxton was also a casualty of last weekend's sevens, sustaining a back injury at Selkirk on Saturday.

Their withdrawal has given promotion to Harry Hogg, of Jedburgh, and Stuart Graham, of the young Hawick club. Their replacements on the bench will be named after tonight's training session.

SCOTTISH BORDERS SELECT: P. Dods (Glasgow); T. Stanger (Hawick); K. Robertson (Glasgow); J. Robertson (Hawick); J. Hogg (Jedburgh); C. Graham (Jedburgh); G. Armstrong (Jedburgh); G. McInnes (Jedburgh); G. Callender (Kelso, capt.); F. Whitcombe (Kelso); C. Haden (Kelso); P. Bishop (Kelso); S. Thompson (Kelso); P. Beckett (Kelso); J. Chapman (Kelso); J. Hogg (Kelso); J. Hogg (Kelso).

Pontypool rebuilding to counter Bishop gambit

By Peter Bills

Pontypool insist there must be life after David Bishop. The problem is they also must concede that life without their former scrum half may well be a lot less pulsating.

When Bishop made his debut in rugby league for Hull Kingston Rovers last Sunday, six coachloads of supporters travelled from South Wales to see him. With them went the Pontypool manager, Ray Prosser, and the new first team coach, John Perkins.

Perkins, who won 10 caps for Wales as a redoubtable lock forward between 1983 and 1986, says: "I by no means approve of it. I had plenty of criticism of him but he was, without doubt, the finest player in rugby I have ever seen."

"He will leave a big hole in Wales but not just at Pontypool. For me, more than a rugby player, he was a box office."

Perkins accepts that Pontypool cannot expect a single man

to fill Bishop's shoes. Mark Rossier, of Aberllynny, impressed in a trial last week but Perkins says: "Our problem is we do not have the firepower of last season. And while a quiet spell is not our way, being realistic, we cannot hope to match recent successes."

Bishop's half back partner, Mark King, has returned to Cardiff and the centre, Roger Bidgood, has followed King. Pontypool lack a high-scoring Ring, a fond farewell but were less impressed with the departure of Bidgood, whom they regard as home-grown.

Rebuilding for the future without slipping too far down may be the extent of Pontypool's new horizons. Under a new captain, Mark Brown, and with Perkins fresh to the coaching role, although admittedly under a wise old head in Prosser, the club, which has symbolised Welsh power, needs to develop some Bishops.

ATHLETICS

Elliott under pressure as Coe prepares timely reply

By a Special Correspondent

Sebastian Coe may well have said that "he had nothing to prove" to the British selectors, after his defeat by Tom McKean in the Mobil Grand Prix final in Berlin last Friday. His 800 metres run in Koblenz on Sunday spoke rather differently. If any athlete in Britain had reason to offer proof to the selectors that they had got it wrong, it was Coe, and a 1min 43.93sec clocking on the Rhineland track was proof enough.

This afternoon in the small, central Italian town of Rieti, Coe can twist the knife deeper into the belly of the selectors — or, to be more accurate, the council of the British Amateur Athletic Board, which overruled Coe's original selection. Although these things are subject to last minute switches, the present picture in Rieti matches Coe in an 800 metres race against the man the council placed ahead of him in that very slot, Peter Elliott.

Elliott has not had the most joyful of months since his selection, for both 800 and 1,500 metres places and, on Sunday at the McVities challenge, his sharp verbal slating of a tabloid newspaper for "stirring it all up again" showed how heavily the pressure of being "the athlete keeping Coe out" has weighed. The Rotherham carpenter, though, will have little to lose on this occasion. He is sen-

sible enough to know that any counterblast he may want to send to his critics is best done on the track in Seoul.

Steve Cram has no such internecine rivalry to disturb his path to the Olympics. He runs in a 1,000 metres race here and the opposition, from his club mate, David Sharpe, and Burundi athlete, Dieudonne Kwizera, should not trouble him. They may, instead, help to tow him close to Coe's world record of 2:12.18.

Jack Buckner continues to catch up with his racing programme with a 5,000 metres outing against Britain's Gary Staines and Tim Hutchings and the Spaniard, José-Luis Gonzales. Buckner is only inching back to the kind of form that he will need in Seoul, but there was a glimmer of respectability in the time of 8:26.52 he recorded for the two miles on Sunday.

He will certainly be looking for something around 13:20 to signal that he is back on course. And he will also be looking around for Hutchings, another athlete who missed out on selection.

There is also a fine women's 800 metres race with Shireen Bailey and Christina Cahill testing their mettle against the very best: Ana Quiroz, the Cuban power house, and Paula Ivan, the Romanian.

Olympic wait is over at long last

By David Powell

Dave Long both caught up with and overtook the Joneses yesterday when he was given the chance to run for Britain in the Olympic Games marathon on October 2. Despite finishing third in the British trial, Long was relegated to fifth choice, but an injury to Hugh Jones and the decision by Steve Jones not to accept means that he will join Charlie Spedding and Kevin Forster in the team for Seoul.

Long becomes the first male Olympian to be produced by Britain's jogging boom. He ran his first marathon five years ago in over three hours, and, four years ago, when the last Olympic marathon was held, he was "on holiday in Greece, drinking... and running about three or four times a week."

Long now takes his sport seriously and needs to be taken seriously himself. Aged 27, he ran the 1min 33sec in London this year to finish fifth, but was overlooked by the selectors in favour of the experience of Spedding and Steve Jones.

Spedding, the Olympic bronze medal winner in Los Angeles, finished behind Long in the trial and Jones, the former holder of the world's best time, failed even to compete in it and has a time this year which is more than two and a half minutes slower than Long's.

But Long always hopeful that he might receive a late call to the team, was congratulating himself yesterday on going ahead with his innocuous month ago. His complimentary remarks, though, did not extend to the selectors.

"I don't feel like jumping up and down. I've been flattened by what happened in April and then over the weekend," he said. "I'm not running for the British Board. I am running for my country."

Steve Jones's decision not to accept, on the ground that he would not be at his best for the Olympics, now gives Long the chance to prove that he should have been chosen ahead of Spedding.

A reluctant archer tells Mick Cleary about her quivering start

Drawing a bow to some purpose

Archery had an effect on Jo Franks from the very first: she hated it. Knees knocking, stomach churning, drenched in perspiration, there was a twang and the arrow fell to earth three yards from where it started. Jo shrieked, ran to her mother's arms and that, as far as she was concerned, was that.

Archer was not for her, not even if it was grandma's stall at the Royal Norfolk Show, where she was throwing her tantrum and everyone else thought it was only a bit of fun. She did not care. Those bows were nasty things.

Nine years later Jo, aged 20, and a second-year student of mathematics at Warwick University, still gets the shakies on the shooting line but now actually quite likes the sport. She ought to, for she will be shortly packing her equipment and leaving for Seoul with her two colleagues in the British women's archery team.

Her transition from distraught novice to enthusiastic, accomplished archer is proudly reflected on the walls of the living room at the family house in Thetford, Norfolk. An array of medals, trophies and photographs catalogue her first national win, at the age of 12, through all the intermediate age groups up to her present status as British champion and record holder. All from such inauspicious beginnings.

"Yes, grandma was a bit upset," Jo recalls, "but my aversion didn't last long, probably because I was getting fed up with all the swimming I'd been doing. I figured that shooting a few arrows in the air was perhaps more enjoyable in the long run than sticking my head under water for hours on end." And so it has proved.

Although Grandma Slater was a keen archer until the age of 80, neither of Jo's parents was active in the sport. Archery targets do not exactly hang on every street corner but the Franks found a club in Great Yarmouth, even though the tuition was of the shoot-yourself-in-the-foot-a-few-times-and-you-will-soon-learn-how-to-point-the-bow properly variety.



Quick on the draw: Joanne Franks, aiming at and for gold (Photograph: Alan Howard)

With a little help from friends and "by watching Robin Hood on television," Jo, along with her mother and father, Shirley and Adrian, quickly developed an enthusiasm for the sport, piling into the family estate car at weekends to scour the country for competitions.

Pastime became family obsession

The coaching of archery is now more structured and the Franks set up their own school on moving to Thetford 18 months ago. Wednesday club nights on the Duke of Grafton's estate attract about 30 archers and show off the ancient pastime in an ideal setting, even if the jets screaming overhead from a RAF base near by are sometimes a rude reminder of modern life.

Archer has about 18,000 active participants in Britain today. The standard target (four feet in diameter) and the scoring (from 10 to 1) have changed little since the beginning of the 19th century. The idea is to hit a central mark (the gold) the size of an apple across the length of a football pitch. On a good day Jo would expect to hit that mark six times out of 10.

"I haven't a clue why I'm any good at it because I'm virtually blind in my left eye," she says. She wastes little time on the shooting line. "Others will tend to fidget about a bit, breathing deeply or closing their eyes to contemplate but I prefer just to let go."

Letting go with any degree of accuracy requires astonishing balance and co-ordination as well as muscular power. The draw weight on a woman's bow is about 34lb, which makes for an accumulative

weight of about five tons in the course of a competition. Slim and of medium height, Jo's forte is her ability to read wind conditions which, if misjudged, can blow away the most precisely delivered arrow.

Hoping for double cause to celebrate

Quite how the wind will blow in Seoul, either literally or metaphorically, is difficult to gauge. Certainly the Soviet and South Korean archers will be pressing hard for the medals.

Jo's sights are set on getting close to her British record of 1,294 points and perhaps breaking through the elusive 1,300. She is out to enjoy the experience whatever happens, particularly as her 21st birthday is on the last day of competition, October 1.

STUDENT SPORT

Students given education

By Yuri Matsichen

The British universities netball team returned from its three-week Australian tour with the knowledge that British netball has some way to go in order to reach the standards on display in Australia where the sport enjoys a very high profile.

Two short warm-up games against teams from the University of Western Australia, which the students won comfortably, provided little warning of what was to come.

The first real test came in Perth against the Western Australian State senior squad, which, with the assistance of several senior and junior internationalists, dismantled the students to win 8-7. This was no disgrace as the opponents would certainly be on a par with the present English senior squad.

Three days later, Western Australian State were the oppo-

nents again, only this time the students lost 8-2, a scoreline which did not truly reflect the improvements made by the British universities. These two heavy defeats acted as preparation for the first international match against the Australian universities in Sydney.

A truly excellent performance, epitomised by the skills and efforts of Gillian Norton (Cambridge University), first at wing defence and then as goalkeeper, saw British universities lose by a solitary goal, 35-34. The second international, held two days later at Woolongong University, was again a close match, but resulted in Australia keeping the winning edge in a 37-27 victory.

In Canberra, the students pitted themselves against the Australian Institute for Sport under-21 side and, despite staying in contention for the first quarter, were defeated 58-24.

Victory did arrive in the shape of a 48-37 win over the Australian Capital Territory under-21 team in Canberra, but was then followed by a 37-18 defeat in the last match of the tour by Randwick State, reputedly the second best club side in Australia.

Captained effortlessly by the Ulster student and Irish international, Jenny Bradley, and inspired by Norton, these young players have been exposed to a standard of netball which they could not gain in this country and the improvement in the latter half of the tour was clearly evident.

BRITISH UNIVERSITIES: J. Bradley (Ulster), K. Chivers (Cambridge), C. Dineen (Glasgow), S. Jones (Aberystwyth), A. Lewis (Strathclyde), J. Lyon (Strathclyde), J. Norton (Cambridge), J. Sarge (Loughborough), G. Simpson (Birmingham), R. Trueman (Strathclyde), H. Vennart (Loughborough).

CRICKET

Britannic Assurance Championship
11.0 unless stated, 110 overs minimum
SOUTHAMPTON: Hampshire v Gloucestershire
OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire v Yorkshire (10.20)

LEICESTER: Leicestershire v Nottinghamshire
THE OVAL: Surrey v Essex
HOVE: Sussex v Middlesex
EDGBASTON: Warwickshire v Glamorgan

Tour match
DERBY: Derbyshire v Sri Lankans

Other match
SCARBOROUGH: World XI v MCC XI

FOOTBALL
First round first leg
Scarborough v Halifax
West Brom v Peterborough
Mercantile Credit Centenary Trophy

Quarter-final
QPR v Arsenal (7.45)

First round
Dundee Utd v Celtic
Dunfermline v Hearts
Hibernian v Aberdeen
Rangers v Dundee

VAUXHALL-OPEL LEAGUE: Premier division: Bolton v Rotherham v Creighton; Scarborough v Basingstoke; Grays v Albion; Albion v Hendon; Watford v Kingstonian v Tooting and Mitcham

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Leyton-Wingate v Leytonstone-Elton; Slough Town v Windsor and Eton; Wokingham v Hayes. First division: Basildon v Havant; Leatherhead v Boreham Wood v Chesham Utd; Kingsbury Town v Hitchin Town; Staines Town v Lewes; Watton and Herham v Southwick; Woking v Hampton; Worthing v Bracknell Town.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Fulham v Cambridge Utd; Ipswich v Norwich City; Leyton Orient v West Ham; Millwall v Gillingham; Portsmouth v Reading; Watford v QPR. Second division: Chichester v Northampton; Southend v Luton; Swindon v Wokingham; Tottenham v Brighton.

CENTRAL LEAGUE (7.30): First division: Aston Villa v Huddersfield; Everton v Newcastle; Leeds Utd v Manchester City; Leicester v Coventry; Manchester Utd v Barnsley; Sheffield Wed v Sheffield Utd. Second division: Darlington v York; Hull v Middlesbrough; Mansfield v Bolton; Notts County v Blackpool (7.30); Oldham v Gillingham; Rotherham v Bradford; Southampton v Doncaster; Slough v Port Vale.

OVERSEAS PAPER COMBINATIONS: Brighton v Charlton (1.15); Chelsea v Tottenham (2.0); Oxford Utd v Crystal Palace.

Yorkshire treble

Yorkshire have won the Tetraco under-16 cricket championship for the third successive season, taking this year's title by four points from Wales. Kent finished third.

Olympic curtain

Seoul (AP) — Olympic organizers are setting up an aluminum curtain to prevent the wind from slowing runners aiming for world records in the Games this summer.

Glen
quick

Summers bt C Dowling, 17-14;
Lingwood bt E Hadgar, 27-13; J Cross bt
R Cox, 23-8; A Garcia bt A Sweet, 29-12

A day in the life on an England cricket captain



Action man: Gooch opened the day at the crease for England, bade a hasty retreat from Lord's once the formalities of England's win were over, and went on to join his Essex county captain, Fletcher, at the Oval

Summer slips by as focus turns to an Indian winter

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

LORD'S: England beat Sri Lanka by seven wickets. The end of England's long, barren, run was duly achieved yesterday, but even this apparent formality was not discharged without a touch of farce, somehow symptomatic of this painfully muddled summer.

As the Lord's clocks reached 1.00 p.m., England needed just one run for victory. The umpires lifted the balls and the players trooped off for lunch. It was the classic example of cricket eccentricity; the sort of thing which has Americans insisting that this is a game played by the insane for the benefit of insomniacs. It did not suit England's plans at all.

Not only were dark clouds gathering over the pavilion, hinting at the ultimate embarrassment, but Graham Gooch, the England captain, was restlessly pacing the balcony, anxious to have this business settled so that he could make his cross-country dash to strengthen Essex's championship challenge at the Oval.

To prolong the fiasco, the win was completed within four balls of the resumption, by courtesy of a misfield, but the presentation ceremony

was then held up for several minutes in order that BBC television could complete the daily transmission of the soap opera, *Neighbours*, before returning live to Lord's. Representatives of the sponsors, Cornhill, shuffled in frustration and Gooch's brow was by now deeply furrowed.

Inevitably, Gooch was the central character of the day. He had woken to the sort of headlines he must inwardly have expected, his name once again a political play thing following his frank admission that South Africa had been his winter alternative to touring India.

It called for Peter May to support a man, to explain his reappointment as captain and to deflect the political propaganda. Sadly, on the day when England won their first Test match in 19, and their first at Lord's for five years, the chairman of selectors was absent, having taken up an invitation to attend the Scarborough festival.

To say he did not miss much is hardly the point. The ragged remnant of this Test match may not have been required viewing, but it is surely customary for the chairman to be on hand at such time, especially with a sensitive captaincy appointment to protect and promote.

That England should labour to score the outstanding 89 runs was to the credit of Sri Lanka, whose bowling, like their batting, was more impressive than in the first innings. Once the skies became overcast, the ball swung appreciably and the talented Samarasekera made the most of it. He consistently swung the ball away from the right-handers and gave England a mild fright by taking two wickets in three balls.

After the openers had put on 73, Gooch was caught behind as he drove at an outswinger he might easily have left alone. Barnett survived a leg-before appeal first ball and was out to the next, pushing forward at one which left him late. When Lamb, having struck one sweet, straight drive, chipped a catch to mid-wicket, England needed the calm of Robinson to steer them home.

It was not a memorable match, but at least it provided a welcome win. Ranjan Madugalle, the Sri Lankan captain, said later that England had played "as if they were starved of being on top" and even Mickey Stewart allowed his optimistic front to drop so far as to say: "We haven't progressed as much this year as I had hoped and planned."

Stewart now feels the Indian tour is a vital period of regrouping under Gooch. Few would disagree with that.

Clarke stays

Chris Nicholl, the Southampton manager, yesterday fined Colin Clarke two weeks' wages after newspaper reports quoted the Northern Ireland international forward as saying that the club "lacked ambition". Clarke has made it clear that he wants to leave The Dell for a bigger club but Nicholl said that unless they received a substantial offer he would stay until his three-year contract ran out.

Double act by Gooch of concern to TCCB

The ethics of calling up a player from a Test match to play in a county match already in progress, are to come under the scrutiny of the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB), following the actions of Essex and Middlesex in commandeering Graham Gooch and John Emburey respectively from the Test against Sri Lanka at Lord's yesterday.

The TCCB are to look into the matter at their December meeting, although Alan Smith, the chief executive, said: "I would probably have done the same if I had been in the shoes of Essex captain Keith Fletcher. Gooch was taking a risk by agreeing to play. He could have broken a finger and Essex would have been forced to play with 10 men."

"Counties obviously want their best players available for their four-day games but this clash was unavoidable. It will be the same next year when Australia are here to play six Tests."

Smith discussed the situation for an hour yesterday morning with Tim Lamb, the TCCB cricket secretary. "It is not a perfect situation and we don't like it very much," Smith admitted. "But there is nothing to stop any county captain from taking this course of action." It seems likely a regulation will be introduced to prevent a repeat performance.

Gooch, the England captain, left Lord's at seven minutes past two, after collecting the £5,500 winner's cheque at the post-match presentation, to join the match against Surrey seven miles away across London at the Oval. It is a fixture which is vital to Essex's late championship challenge.

Essex had also considered naming Neil Foster, England's fast bowler who was also playing at Lord's, but decided it was too much of a gamble to start with only nine men. Emburey left Lord's to drive the 65 miles to Hove, where his county were playing Sussex. Graham Dilley, the England fast bowler, has informed the selectors of his availability for the tour of India.

Durie's energy sapped by hard-hitting rallies

From Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent, New York

They tried to start the United States championships a day earlier than usual. But on Monday rain restricted play to an hour and 20 minutes and only five matches were finished. So the tournament did not really get off the starting blocks until the traditional Tuesday.

Officials at the Association of Tennis Professionals, barred from premises evened by ATP members, held a press conference in a car park outside the main gate.

The purpose was to explain why the ATP may run its own circuit from 1990, a task it could handle competently and responsibly, unless the Men's Tennis Council is reorganized, with the International Tennis Federation stripped of voting rights.

For the moment, all that needs to be added is that this was presumably the first time that the ATP executive director, Hamilton Jordan, formerly President Carter's chief of staff, had conducted a press briefing in a car park.

Inside, Mats Wilander, who looks as likely as anyone to win the men's singles, completed a 6-2, 6-1, 6-4 win over Greg Holmes, from Salt Lake City. That happened in the vast bowl of the main stadium. Out on court 21, Jo Durie, of Britain, was beaten 6-3, 6-1 by Susan Sloane, from Lexington, Kentucky, who is 10 years her junior.

Sloane, aged 17, is a fair-haired, strongly built baseline

player, with a two-fisted backhand and so much energy that even the sight of her must have made Durie feel old. Sloane scuttled about like a rabbit, hit hard to a good length, and pinned Durie to the back of the court.

The day was fine and, for a change, the degree of humidity was merciful. The flowers,

tournament, because the aircraft pass over the courts with roars that tend to reach 165 decibels.

There has been talk of moving the championships, but that kite-flying proposal has served merely to remind the organizers that the tournament and the premises need a comprehensive overhaul.

There can be no arguing with the commercial success of the championships, which provide the US Tennis Association with 82 per cent of its income. The money comes from gate receipts, television fees, and sponsors, with smaller contributions from a proportion of the catering income and from radio fees.

Make what you will of the fact that 50 per cent of the tickets are bought by companies. When the championships were moved from Forest Hills to this public facility it was suggested that the game might thus be given more mass appeal. But it seems to be more exclusive than ever.

Natalya Zvereva, the runner-up for the French championship, was seeded to reach the quarter-finals here, but was beaten 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 yesterday by Kim Steinmetz, of St Louis, a qualifier.

Another qualifier, Johan Carlsson of Sweden, had a 6-0, 6-4, 6-4 win over Slobodan Zivonjovic, who had looked a threatening "floater" in Stefan Edberg's section of the draw.

Results from Flushing Meadow

MEN'S First round: D. G. Conn (AUS) vs L. Duncanson (USA), 6-0, 6-2, 6-2; M. Wilander (SWE) vs G. Holmes (USA), 6-2, 6-1, 6-4; J. Carlsson (SWE) vs S. Zvereva (YUG), 6-0, 6-4, 6-4; A. Gomez (ECU) vs J. Steinmetz (USA), 6-2, 6-2; A. Kuznetsov (URS) vs M. Schapars (AUS), 7-5, 6-3, 6-2; D. Pate (USA) vs E. Jelen (HUN), 6-1, 6-4, 6-2.

WOMEN'S First round: Z. Garmston (USA) vs N. Pietrangeli (ITA), 6-3, 6-2; D. Zvereva (URS) vs M. Wilander (SWE), 6-3, 6-2; S. Sloane (USA) vs J. Durie (GBR), 6-3, 6-1; S. Wassenman (GER) vs S. Cechet (ITA), 7-6, 6-3.

Players seek revolution to gain control of destiny

From Richard Evans, New York

After a flurry of player meetings over the past few days it has become clear that revolutionary moves are being set in motion that could alter, to a radical extent, the way in which the men's professional tennis tour is administered.

Basically, the players want the International Tennis Federation to get off the Men's Tennis Council so that the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) can run tennis in much the same way as the PGA runs golf.

It is not coincidental that Hamilton Jordan, the ATP executive director, recently hired Tim Smith, formerly deputy commissioner of the PGA, as a consultant. Smith's initial report on professional tennis declared that it is perceived as 'chaotic' in the eyes of the corporate marketing world.

Rumours of unrest have been circulating among the more politically minded players for some time now but a growing unity and awareness among the top stars in recent weeks has allowed the ATP to replace words with action. Not since the ATP Wimbledon boycott of 1973 have the players appeared so determined to take hold of their own destiny.

Over the weekend 100 players endorsed their Board's decision to give the MTC until 1990 to reorganize itself. If it does not, the implication is that the ATP will break away completely from the body that administers the professional tour, under the supervision of Marshall Hapner, and run its own circuit.

"As president of the ITF, Philippe Chatrier has done great things for the game," Brian Gottfried, the ATP president and former Wimbledon semi-finalist said. "But in the last few years we have seen the ITF do much as it pleases with the calendar, moving Davis Cup dates without consultation, taking players off the tour for the Olympics, irrespective of the needs of super series events, and trying to pretend that the Grand Slams and Davis Cup are the only things that matter."

"With the current MTC set-up where we have just three votes out of nine, we are incapable of doing what we feel is best for the future health of the worldwide game and our own members. It is not about money - I want to stress that. It is about controlling our own destiny and that includes disciplining our own players just as the PGA does on the golf tour. It can be done and I am convinced it must be done."

With the world waiting agog for the next session of violence - wherever it take place, Wembley Stadium or Dapper Dan's - I believe he is telling the truth. That jacket from Dapper Dan's speaks the truth.

But the world shows a strange nice-mindedness when it comes to selling soft drinks. "What if I got stabbed or shot?" Tyson demanded. "What if I became paralysed? They don't put no paraplegics in Pepsi commercials."

Tyson is a man of acuity, and is given to bursts of charm and humour. He is also a man of violence. I cannot believe that any professional boxer finds it easy to handle these contradictions. Tyson has never claimed to find it so: "Sometimes it's not easy being Mike Tyson," he said.

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ers for some time now but a growing unity and awareness among the top stars in recent weeks has allowed the ATP to replace words with action. Not since the ATP Wimbledon boycott of 1973 have the players appeared so determined to take hold of their own destiny.

Over the weekend 100 players endorsed their Board's decision to give the MTC until 1990 to reorganize itself. If it does not, the implication is that the ATP will break away completely from the body that administers the professional tour, under the supervision of Marshall Hapner, and run its own circuit.

"As president of the ITF, Philippe Chatrier has done great things for the game," Brian Gottfried, the ATP president and former Wimbledon semi-finalist said. "But in the last few years we have seen the ITF do much as it pleases with the calendar, moving Davis Cup dates without consultation, taking players off the tour for the Olympics, irrespective of the needs of super series events, and trying to pretend that the Grand Slams and Davis Cup are the only things that matter."

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END COLUMN

Judging boxers by their jackets

Simon Barnes

New York

Mitch "Blood" Green has kept New York laughing this week with a series of interviews that emphasize all that is truly good and noble in boxing. "Tyson, Cicely Tyson, he's a sissy."

It was generally agreed that this was a bravura performance of the spaced-out ghetto idiot: it was the kind of Damon Runyon, Broadway-low life, cameo that New York loves with all the self-love it can muster - and that is considerable.

Green was the man involved in the bout of extra-curricular fisticuffs with the heavyweight champion of the world last week, you will recall. It was four in the morning, so, naturally, Tyson was going to visit his tailor, Dapper Dan.

This is the sort of Runyonesque detail that boxing-mad New York adores. The town is slapping itself on the back and asking itself: where else could you pick up a jacket at four on the morning? Especially a white leather jacket, especially a white leather jacket bearing the legend "Don't Believe the Hype?"

The myth of the man of violence

Boxing is a business that demands dual standards, split personalities. And Tyson more than any other boxer, sums up those contradictions. The essence of the contradiction is, of course, that boxing pretends to be a sport.

This involves the myth of the gentleman fighter, the gentle person with the fearsome fists, the man of violence who uses his awesome power only in the sacred confines of the ring of honour. The civilized savage, as it were.

That is how the worship of violence becomes acceptable. Violence becomes somehow charmingly colourful in the context of boxing. Tyson calls himself "the baddest dude on the planet", and has talked enchantingly of how he wished to punch an opponent on the nose and have the bone smash into his brain. Very colourful.

Tyson has acquired a great deal of respect for all this: and he is a truly awesome fighter. Tyson is a man of business, whose trade is violence. He is neither an entertainer nor a hypocrite.

It is hardly a contradiction that violence, and rumours of violence spill over into Tyson's real life. There was the incident last summer when he hit a parking-lot attendant. His wife's sister has called him a wife-beater. Now the scuffle with Green, and Green's gleeful exploitation of this, with the help of the equally gleeful media.

Advertisers cannot afford the risk

One New York ad-imagery man summed up: "If it was just an isolated case, it wouldn't matter. But a pattern is emerging. It makes advertisers very nervous. Their question is, what will be next? If you're an advertising agency that has to appeal to the whole country, you can't afford to take that risk."

It is America, or if you prefer, the world, that is the hypocrite here. It creates and revels in Tyson as a man of violence, and then has second thoughts about him when it comes to selling candy bars.

The world revels in the horror stories of Tyson's past, the probation for muggings and purse-snatching, and how he was saved from the ghetto, or jail, by boxing, by the socially-acceptable trade of violence.

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Kennedy in a critical condition

Vivian Kennedy, the National Hunt jockey, was still critically ill in hospital yesterday after suffering severe head injuries in a fall at Huntingdon Monday.

The 23-year-old is on a life support machine at Brooke's Hospital, having been taken from Huntingdon Hospital, in

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Cyclist to sue rival for assault over race crash

Brussels (Reuters) - Claude Criquelion, of Belgium, intends to sue Steve Bauer for assault after an incident which he claims deprived him of victory in the world cycling championships, his lawyer said yesterday.

Criquelion says he was brought down by the Canadian 50 meters from the finish of the professional road race, at Renaix, when he looked the most likely winner.

His lawyer, Orphale Crucke, said that Criquelion would lodge a complaint for assault at a court in Oudenaarde, near Ghent. He said Criquelion had the moral support of the Belgian Cycling Union, which had already asked the International Cycling Union to impose sanctions on Bauer.

The court will investigate the case and decide whether Criquelion can claim damages.

The crash happened as Bauer was leading a three-man sprint on an uphill stretch ahead of Criquelion, with Maurizio Fondriest, of Italy, in a seemingly hopeless position.

As Bauer faded and changed gear, Criquelion tried to slip past on the inside. But the Canadian suddenly veered to the right and blocked the Belgian's path with his elbow.

Criquelion was forced off the road and he hit a policeman, lost his balance and crashed. Bauer then seemed to lose his momentum and he hardly reacted when Fondriest passed him to win the title.

Bauer, who is based in Belgium, was disqualified from second place for dangerous riding. He needed a police escort to lead him away from a booing crowd, and the police guarded his house, in Gullegem, on Sunday night and Monday.

Criquelion said: "He trapped me. I could have got past him without any problem, but he pushed me with his elbow."

Eddy Merckx, the Belgian team coach, said: "The financial loss for Criquelion is enormous. He will also be seriously hurt mentally."

Brisbane applies

Sydney (AFP) - Brisbane, beaten by Barcelona in its attempt to stage the 1992 Olympics, yesterday lodged an official application for 1996 and Sydney and Melbourne are expected to follow suit today.

The Australian Olympic Federation will decide its candidate for the Olympic centenary on November 17 and the International Olympic Committee will decide the final venue in September 1990 in Tokyo. Sallyanne Atkinson, the Brisbane Lord Mayor, said the Queensland capital has facilities to stage the Games now after hosting the Commonwealth Games in 1982 and the present World Exposition.

Sting along

Frank Bruno will be accompanied by the rock star, at Highgate Ponds at 9.30 a.m. today on a training run for his world heavyweight boxing title fight against Mike Tyson at Wembley on October 8.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Italy dig deep

Rome (AP) - Italy will send 263 athletes, 221 men and 42 women, to the Olympic Games, at a cost of £42 million to train them. Another 190 officials, coaches, medical personnel and other staff will accompany the competitors.

Scot backing

The Girobank Scotland will again sponsor Scottish national badminton championship at Meadowbank from February 3 to 5 with £4,000.

Hearing date

Glenn McCrory, the British and Commonwealth cruiser-weight champion, is to have his contract dispute with Doug Bidwell, his manager, heard by the British Boxing Board on September 7.

Ban remains

Zurich (Reuters) - FIFA will not lift its ban on Iraq and Iran playing international football matches at home until a peace treaty is signed to end the eight-year war. In 1986 the warring Gulf nations were ordered to play their World Cup ties on neutral venues.

Class debut

Jonathan Palmer, the normally-aspirated grand prix champion, will make his European touring car championship debut in the 500km RAC Tourist Trophy at Silverstone on Sunday with Guy Edwards.

Butterfly float

Toronto (AP) - Vicki Keith, a Canadian, aged 27, became the first swimmer to cross all five Great Lakes when she took less than 24 hours to make the 31-mile journey across Lake Ontario, doing 23.6 miles of butterfly - nearly double her world record distance for the stroke.